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THE TIMES

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SERIALS DIVISION

Partners accuse Hurd of blocking EU expansion

Tories split over plan to cede more power to Brussels

BY JAMES LANDALE AND PHILIP WEBSTER

JOHN Major faced a new Conservative split on Europe last night as Douglas Hurd fought to prevent a weakening of Britain's voting strength in the European Union.

The Foreign Secretary was under attack from all sides in Brussels yesterday as EU ministers argued over how voting arrangements should be adjusted when four new countries join the union. Only Spain lined up with Britain in opposing the changes.

Denmark warned Mr Hurd that he could be triggering a serious political crisis, since failure to reach agreement could put the enlargement of the community at risk. Niels Helveg Petersen, the Danish Foreign Minister, said the British position was untenable: "They cannot say throughout their presidency that they are in favour of enlargement and then come here and try to block it."

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, put more pressure on Britain with a telephone call to the Prime Minister expressing concern about the danger of the enlargment talks breaking down, but there was no sign of compromise as the discussions continued well into the night. Diplomats said that further meetings and an emergency summit could be needed to decide the issue.

At the heart of the dispute is a proposal to raise from 23 votes to 27 the so-called "blocking minority" that can veto some community legislation. Britain, which has ten votes, wants to keep the figure at 23.

Mr Hurd had been warned before leaving for Brussels that Conservatives at Westminster would not accept a climbdown, yet Euro-enthusiasts insisted that he must not jeopardise the expansion of the community that he and Mr Major advocate. Mr Major told the Commons yesterday that he was "very much in favour" of enlargement, but that Britain wanted to ensure "democratic legitimacy" and the rights of minorities in the EU.

Mr Hurd had approached yesterday's talks with pessimism, saying there was nothing on the table to meet the concerns of "just about everybody in Britain". But diplomats said later that some progress had been made. "We think that the case we've been making for 23 votes is understood, and it's interesting that there's no longer the same insistence on 27 votes, and only 27, that we have had from delegations before," one British official said. Spain also put forward a compromise that it hoped would be acceptable to Britain.

A failure to reach agreement would put the enlargement of the EU in doubt because the European Parliament might not have time to ratify the treaty before the June elections. Sweden, Finland and Austria have all agreed the terms under which they were join, and ministers were working hard last night to reach final agreement with Norway. Referendums planned for the autumn may have to be delayed, making it more difficult for the four countries' governments to maintain the momentum of popular support for EU membership.

Acutely aware of the dangers, Hans van den Brock, the EU foreign affairs commissioner, yesterday appealed to Mr Major to put the community's interests ahead of his own domestic troubles, while the German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel met Mr Hurd twice yesterday to try to find a way through the impasse.

European Union legislation on matters of national interest, such as finance, requires a unanimous 12 votes. Lesser issues, such as the environment, the single market and health, are decided by "qualified majority voting".

In these cases, each country's vote is roughly weighted to reflect its population — Britain, Germany, France and Italy have ten votes each, Luxembourg only two.

Legislation can be blocked by 23 votes out of a total of 76, which means a coalition of one small and two large countries can impose a veto.

With four new EU members, the total number of votes will rise to 90 and it is proposed that the so-called "blocking minority" should be 27. That would mean a coalition of four countries would be needed to veto legislation.

Britain argues that this makes it too difficult to block Brussels directives. Most other EU members say that without the change, decision-making would be paralysed.

In Britain, the Tory divisions are less clearcut than during the Maastricht saga, because at least some Euro-enthusiasts are dubious about the voting proposals. John Townend, chairman of the party's backbench finance committee, said opposition was spread right across the party. "This is a case of blackmail. The commission is proposing watering down voting rights to have enlargement of the community." The community had a vested interest in enlargement because the incoming countries were rich.

Iain Duncan-Smith, Conservative MP for Chingford, said: "There is no need to move on this. There is no real threat. We should just call their bluff and stand firm." Lord Parkinson agreed. He said Mr Hurd should stand firm, "not out of bloody-mindedness, but because what we have demonstrated since the Maastricht vote is that Britain has been right in resisting the move to a single currency and an ever-tighter ERM."

But Hugh Dykes, chairman of the European Movement, denounced his Euro-sceptic colleagues as "neurotic TV chat-show ogres", and Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe, said: "We should not lose sight — and we should not allow those opposed to Britain's membership of Europe to allow us to lose sight — of the real objective of getting enlargement in the national interest."

Crucial votes, page 15
Peter Brookes, page 18

Loretta Johnson, of British Airways, trying to control Tom during the husky's stopover in London yesterday

South Pole huskies get taste of urban life

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE last huskies to leave Antarctica arrived in London yesterday and caught their first glimpse of urban life ... and cats. The 13 British huskies have been forced to leave the South Pole by an international treaty, banning alien species from the continent. On their flight to a new home in Hudson Bay, Canada, the dogs stepped on to the tarmac at Heathrow airport, sniffed the air and caught sight of a cat. Linda Capper, of the British Antarctic Survey, which is responsible for the huskies, said: "There was a bit of miaowing followed by quite a lot of barking, but I don't think they quite realised the significance. There might have been more reaction if it had been a seal or a penguin." Scientists with the survey have fought to keep the dogs amid claims that they have become victims of ecological correctness; human beings should be also banned. They argue that the dogs offer psychological comfort for researchers. But the battle was lost when the Foreign Office, under pressure from Australia to comply with the Antarctica Treaty Environment Protocol, ordered the dogs out. Earlier this week, the dogs flew to the Falkland Islands, where they experienced grass for the first time.

City big guns overwhelm angry Rover shareholders

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE £800 million sale of the Rover car company to BMW was approved yesterday after institutional investors combined to overwhelm the protests of small shareholders.

At the end of a stormy shareholder meeting in the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, to consider the deal, the board of British Aerospace, Rover's parent company, was obliged to call a poll when the deal was blocked on a show of hands.

Angry small investors who had turned out in their hundreds to voice their objections to the sale overseas of the last British-owned volume car company, voted by 111 to 42 against the deal.

The outcome of the poll, to be announced this morning, like the outcome of the meeting, is not in doubt. John Cahill, BAe's chairman, began the meeting with proxies representing 117 million shares in favour of the deal and only 1.5 million against.

Despite government efforts during the 1980s to reverse the long steady fall in small shareholders, institutional fund managers still call the shots in the boardrooms. Holding billions of pounds invested by individuals in pensions, insurance and savings schemes and the like, fund managers can buy or sell big stakes in quoted companies just by picking up a telephone.

In BAe, three funds — PDFM, Templeton Investment Management and Scottish Widows Group — together speak for 86.5 million shares, 22.9 per cent of the company's equity.

To win yesterday's poll Mr Cahill and his board needed only to convince a handful of key individuals that the sale of Rover was the best and quickest way to increase the value of their BAe shares. In that they clearly succeeded.

Winning over small investors was a much tougher task, however. The first shareholder to tackle the board yesterday was Noel Falconer, a veteran campaigner for the rights of small shareholders. Mr Falconer, who has in the past tried unsuccessfully to be elected to the BAe board, was a knowledgeable and outspoken critic of a system that leaves small investors, however numerous, unable to exert influence on those who manage the companies in which they invest.

Outside the meeting a blustery wind tugged at the Union Jacks of demonstrators who were signalling their opposition to the sale. Inside the hotel's elegantly panelled ballroom, the atmosphere was stormier still.

Mr Cahill and his board did their best to calm the worries of small shareholders over the sale. George Simpson, Rover's chairman, said that BMW would invest in Rover, maintain its British technology base and increase its sales. That may be the case, but small shareholders who have been loyal to "the Rover" for decades remained unconvinced.

Harold Akehurst protested that £3 billion of taxpayers' money had been invested in Rover. "We must consider our loyal and dedicated workforce also, and keep our car company in British hands," he said.

An employee shareholder protested that "every week we get another announcement. Are we going to sell BAe as well?"

Mr Cahill, who will be succeeded next month as non-executive chairman by Bob Bauman, of the drugs group SmithKline Beecham, was also criticised for leaving with a £3.5 million bonus package.

Investors back deal, page 25

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Sir Charles Guthrie: the new Army chief

SAS man lands top Army job

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER SAS commander has been promoted to the Army's top job as part of the knock-on effect of Sir Peter Harding's resignation as Chief of the Defence Staff.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, who served with the SAS as a troop commander in 1966 and then as a squadron commander in 1968, was yesterday appointed Chief of the General Staff. He is one of many former SAS commanders who have reached the top echelons of the Army.

The change at the top of the Army came after General Sir Peter Inge, 58, was confirmed as the new Chief of the Defence Staff in succession to Sir Peter Harding, who resigned after the revelations of an affair with the former wife of Sir Antony Buck, a former Conservative minister. He is promoted to the rank of field marshal

Continued on page 2, col 6

Walter Ellis, page 16
Simon Jenkins, page 18

Ministers review tactics in battle against terrorism

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major yesterday called together senior ministers at the forefront of the battle against terrorism as he came under renewed pressure to intensify security measures against the IRA.

The informal meeting of the Cabinet sub-committee on terrorism — the first since the IRA's three mortar attacks on Heathrow airport — coincided with a plea from James Molyneaux, leader of the Ulster Unionists, for the Government to put "much stronger pressure on the Irish government to fulfil their moral duty to eradicate terrorism".

Later, in the Commons, Mr Major condemned the mortar attacks as "totally despicable" and said the IRA would not bomb its way to the negotiating table.

At 50 minutes of private talks with the Prime Minister, Mr Molyneaux demanded closer cross-border co-operation on security; in particular the sharing of intelligence on IRA activities gathered in the South. He also urged suspension of any orders to police and security forces to go easy on suspected terrorists while the IRA and Sinn Fein consider their response to the Downing Street declaration.

Mr Major was joined by Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, for the first counter-terrorism review since the attacks. Downing Street officials gave no details of the talks, but they were assumed to have covered such options as greater freedom for military helicopters to cross into the South on anti-terrorist operations, "hot pursuit" of terrorist suspects by British forces across the border, and extradition of suspects.

Mr Major welcomed the Irish Extradition Bill now going through the Irish Parliament, which will sharply curtail the scope for a "political motive" to be cited as a defence in terrorist cases. But Mr Molyneaux said the Bill was "seriously flawed".

David Trimble, Ulster Unionist MP for Upper Bann and a close colleague of Mr Molyneaux's, said his leader's meeting with Mr Major had concentrated on security matters. This was at odds with the account of Downing Street officials, who said that political developments dominated the talks.

Mr Trimble said the failure of the Downing Street declaration to end the violence had left a policy vacuum that should be filled by a security effort. "We do not believe that there is any worthwhile security co-operation from the Irish government, particularly on intelligence matters," Mr Trimble said. The Heathrow operation had been a big undertaking involving the movement of men and equipment, almost certainly through the Irish republic.

Downing Street said the talks had been "friendly and constructive" and had concentrated on taking forward the three-stranded political talks with the constitutional parties on the future of Ulster.

Peter Riddell, page 11

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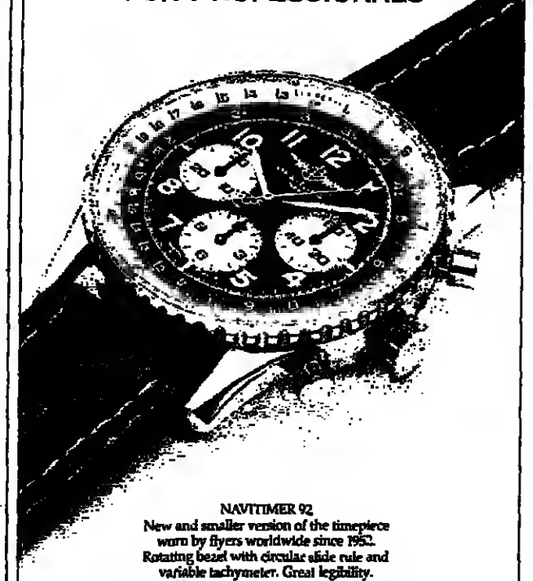

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A pocketful of prejudice that keeps the old class struggle alive

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

We witnessed yesterday one of the last surviving examples of social deference at the Commons. A Tory barked at a Labour MP that he should get his hands out of his pockets. Despite himself, the socialist almost complied.

A century ago the first Labour MPs struggled under a handicap: in class terms the Tories were their "betters". Habit of respect for toffs died hard, even in men who had rejected the class structure intellectually. It is said that, before the war, working-class MPs often found it difficult to question Tory ministers with the insolence that Opposition requires. Deference lingered in the second natures, if not the conscious beliefs, of MPs born in Victoria's reign. That has gone.

Or has it? Male readers will know that, though nothing comes more naturally than to put your hands into your pockets, it is almost impossible to *keep* them there after a voice with any hint of social command has told you to take them out. So spare a thought for Labour's Alan Simpson (Nottingham S), a quietly spoken, polytechnic-educated 45-year-old. He had a question for the Prime Minister. Unfortunately none of us can remember what it was, for the occasion was swamped by hilarity.

Mr Simpson rose. More out of nervousness than disrespect he thrust his hands into his pockets. Addressing the PM, he began: "Would the Rt Hon gentleman ..."

"*Get* your hands out of your pockets!" came an officer-rank bark from somewhere on the Tory side. Simpson reacted without thinking. One hand was out of his pocket, the other well on its way, before he remembered the class struggle. Too late to put back the hand! Aborting the withdrawal of the other hand, he thrust it defiantly in. One in, one out: MPs guffawed. The impact of his enquiry was lost. PM's questions, commanding the premium they do, it may be years before he gets another chance.

Perhaps, though — for PM's questions if not for Alan Simpson — relief is in sight. By accident the upper House yesterday stumbled on a way of conducting its own version, with Lord Wakeham, Leader of the Lords, substituting for the PM.

No senior figure routinely stands up in the Lords, on behalf of the Government, for members to throw wet sponges at for 15 minutes — on any subject — as occurs in the Commons. Ministers in the Lords do answer questions on their own portfolios, though, and sometimes, when a question is about overall policy the Leader of the Lords takes the enquiry himself. Yesterday he rose to answer the Earl Russell, who had asked HMG to name any recent measure which contributed to its back-to-basics policy.

Lord Wakeham made the fateful error of observing mildly that *all* government measures contribute to this policy. It was the policy of common sense.

Thus were the floodgates opened. Lord Barnett (Lab) wanted to know if the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill was common sense. Earl Peel (C) hoped HMG would apply common sense to Europe. Lord Tordoff (Lib Dem) doubted that John Major's reversal on nursery provision could be called common sense. Lord Russell questioned the common sense of Tory education policy in general ...

... And poor Wakeham, who plays a straight bat, was left defending the wicket on every imaginable subject. From now on, peers might as well ask him to state his engagements for the day.

Police say IRA bomb found by BR worker was planted months ago

Rail bomb was meant to explode at Christmas

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

AN IRA bomb discovered close to a Kent commuter rail line yesterday was planted months ago and failed to detonate, police believe.

Scotland Yard sources said the bomb was not part of a new wave of violence launched by the Heathrow mortar attacks. They said it probably dated from a series of attacks on railway lines in the Home Counties just before Christmas, but was missed during security alerts.

Police said the bomb, although small, would have damaged the line and caused considerable disruption to services from Hastings and Ashford which pass through Sevenoaks to London.

The discovery led to the diversion or cancellation yesterday of several dozen trains and considerable difficulties for passengers. The lines round Sevenoaks were closed for five hours.

The bomb was found by chance in the rush hour when a track worker checked the line. Built inside a container the size of a lunch box, the device held about a pound of explosive and had been left close to a road bridge across the line.

Detectives said the bomb had been partly buried, but had become dislodged on the embankment. It was not found during extensive searches on 200 miles of line last December. Services were suspended twice after coded bombs warnings but no devices were located.

On October 24 last year, a bomb damaged a signal box at Reading station, Berkshire. Unexploded devices were found in the station toilets and made safe.

The next day a bomb exploded on railway track at Brill, Buckinghamshire, disrupting services. A second device was made safe at Basingstoke station, Hampshire. On December 14 an explosion on tracks near Woking, Surrey, caused widespread chaos.

As Yard explosives experts were examining the device last night, Sussex police were checking a bomb found in a 2oz tobacco tin close to Gatwick airport. The bomb, which could have blown off a hand if picked up, was not linked to the IRA. Police said that the device may be connected with animal rights activists.

It was found during a routine police sweep round the airport. It was hidden, possibly some weeks ago, under logs in a section of woods being cleared. Police are examining the possibility it was planted by someone protesting at the removal of the trees.

A police spokesman said: "It is a strange little incident. The spot is 400 yards from the nearest lane, across a muddy field and it is quite remarkable the police found it."

☐ Police in Plymouth yesterday said the cost of policing the Conservative Party central council meeting in the city next week will cost residents £250,000.

John Albon, assistant chief constable of Devon and Cornwall, said that a "threat assessment" had been carried out with the Special Branch and the secret service, revealing a "high risk".

Chief Supt Terry Houston with one of the photographic units used to detonate IRA bombs from 800 metres away

IRA's 'Russian roulette' detonator

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

POLICE accused the IRA yesterday of playing Russian roulette with people's lives by using a new detonator that is triggered by a flash of light.

The device, based on a photographer's flash system, is so sensitive it could easily be activated accidentally, detonating a bomb before any warning could be acted upon. The infra-red light from the key to a car's central locking system or even a hand waved in front of it could set it off.

Commercial photographers use the £70 device, known as a photo-flash slave unit, to produce simultaneous flashes. The IRA wires the unit to a bomb and detonates it with a flashgun.

Chief Supt Terry Houston of the RUC said that the detonator could be activiated from up to 800 metres away. "Its disadvantage is its extreme sensitivity. Tests have shown that the unit can be activated by the flashing lights of emergency vehicles, by knocking against or tapping the unit. Terrorists are playing Russian roulette with the lives of the community."

At a press conference in Belfast yesterday, Mr Houston ruled out a ban on the device. "It would be like trying to do away with coffee jars because the IRA pack explosives into them."

An earlier short-range version of the device was used to murder of an RUC constable in 1992. The latest unit was used recently in an explosion that injured one person.

Unions may sue over injury scheme

A group of eight trade unions and staff associations told the Home Secretary yesterday that they will start legal action against him unless he withdraws his criminal injuries compensation scheme. The unions said that Michael Howard was "acting unconstitutionally, unlawfully, in breach of his statutory duty, and in flagrant disregard of Parliament's will" in scrapping the existing scheme and introducing a new one. The group, which includes the Fire Brigades Union, the Royal College of Nursing, the Transport and General Workers' Union and ASLEF, say the new scheme will be grossly unfair to victims of violent crime and provide minimal compensation. They say they have been forced to defend the interests of "people who are the victims of violent crime during their employment". The new scheme will take no account of loss of earnings or medical care, unlike the present scheme in which awards are made according to circumstances.

Dead driver was 14

A car involved in a three-car crash at the weekend in which five people died was being driven by a 14-year-old girl, police said yesterday. They said cannabis was found in the car. A spokesman said the girl was driving a Renault Fuego that collided with a Rover at a notorious crossroads at Green Ore, on the A39 near Wells, Somerset. A Peugeot ran into the wreckage. The girl was killed with three of her passengers — two girls aged 15 and 16 and a 25-year-old man. The other victim was the Rover driver, Glenn Carroll, of Croscombe, Somerset.

Solicitor struck off

A lawyer who took clients' money — in one case to pay his gardener's wages — was struck off yesterday. Ian Sloan, a council member of the Law Society for Scotland, was found guilty of professional misconduct. The Scottish Solicitors' Discipline Tribunal said Sloan, a partner in firm at Broxburn, Lothian, committed "serious acts of dishonesty".

Accused doctor cleared

A therapist accused of taking advantage of a female patient's problems to persuade her to have sex was cleared by the General Medical Council's professional conduct committee. It found Alistair Muir, 32, of Glasgow, not guilty of having sexual intercourse with a 31-year-old student, but said he had formed an "improper emotional relationship" with her.

Trance woman sues

A woman who broke her leg jumping off a stage when under a trance during a hypnotist's show is suing the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow, for £80,000 damages. Ann Hazard, 25, of East Kilbride, ended up in hospital after a Robert Halpern performance in July 1988. She maintains that because she was hypnotised, she had no care for her personal safety.

Caithness wins vote

The Earl of Caithness, who last week gave evidence at the inquest which concluded that his wife Diana had shot herself, is to remain president of his local Tory party. The former government transport minister was re-elected at the annual meeting of West Oxfordshire Conservative Association. A spokesman said: "We voted overwhelmingly."

Pacific rower gives up

Briton Peter Bird, 47, has given up his attempt to row single-handedly across the Pacific from Russia to the United States. After ten months at sea Mr Bird, right, still had one third of the 6,000-mile journey to go. His attempt, however, has set a record for the longest time spent at sea in a rowing craft: 304 days. He was picked up about 2,100 miles off San Francisco by a merchant ship.

Rapist silenced victim

A woman raped in a school yard is unable to speak because the rapist smashed her jaw. The victim, aged 26, has managed to describe her attacker to police in notes scribbled from a hospital bed. She was grabbed by the rapist in Mount Vernon, Liverpool, punched and knocked unconscious before being dragged into the yard.

Prince's school to merge

The Prince of Wales's preparatory school said yesterday that it is to merge with a rival to form one of the top training grounds for Eton and other leading public schools. Cheam School, near Newbury, Berkshire, where the Prince was head boy, will join with Hawtreys, at Savernake, Wiltshire, in the autumn. They will be based at the Cheam site.

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NHS cuts claim top-level casualties

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Services Correspondent

FOUR top NHS managers have been sacrificed in the drive to cut health service bureaucracy that will eventually cause the loss of thousands of administrative posts.

The four, managers of regional health authorities and paid up to £85,000 a year, have failed in their attempt to win one of the top posts in the new merged regions that come into effect on April 1. They have been told that they will have to develop their careers in "new directions".

The 14 regional health authorities are being reduced to eight and their staff streamlined. Managers of 13 of the authorities — one post was vacant — had to compete for the eight new jobs. Two were appointed to posts in the NHS management executive. One post, for the south and west, has still to be filled.

Announcing the appointments yesterday, Alan Langlands, chief executive designate of the NHS, said the four who had failed to obtain posts were able people whom the NHS could not afford to lose. "I shall be working with them closely to ensure that this does not happen," he said.

The eight managers picked to fill the new posts will not have a sure future. Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, intends to abolish the regions when parliamentary time can be found to pass the necessary legislation. In the meantime their workforces are to be reduced to a maximum of 200.

Labour said that spending on NHS red tape had soared as a result of the introduction of the health service reforms. Last year it topped £3 billion, consuming nearly 11 per cent of the NHS budget, the largest-ever proportion.

Children to sue over electric cable fears

A GROUP of 50 children are seeking legal aid to sue Michael Heseltine, trade secretary, to stop the installation of six high-voltage underground electric cables now being installed near their homes in Essex (Frances Gibb writes).

The test legal actioo was agreed at a meeting on Monday night of more than 100 residents from the six-mile area in South Woodford, Walthamstow and Chingford.

The families are concerned about the reported links between electromagnetic fields and an increased risk of childhood cancers such as leukaemia and brain tumours, suggested in a number of studies over the past 15 years.

Lawyers for the children, who under the Children Act 1989 are able to take legal action and apply for legal aid, will argue that the Government has a statutory duty to lay down guidelines which force the National Grid and other suppliers of electricity to minimise the level of exposure to electro-magnetic fields, pending further research.

SAS officer lands the top job in Army

Continued from page 1

at a salary of £112,083. Both appointments took immediate effect. Sir Charles, 55, was told of his promotion while on a week's leave in Britain. He had been due to complete his previous posting as commander-in-chief of the British Army of the Rhine in October.

Other SAS commanders who have climbed to the top in the Army include Lieutenant General Sir Michael Rose, who was commander UK Field Army before being seconded to Sarajevo as commander of the United Nations forces in Bosnia, General Sir Michael Wilkes, now Adjutant General and on the Army Board, and Major General John Foley, commander British Forces Hong Kong.

Sir Peter Inge, whose nameplate was already in position at the Ministry of Defence yesterday, was commissioned into the Green Howards from Sandhurst in July 1956.

Walter Ellis, page 16
Simon Jenkins, page 18

Sir Peter Inge: his nameplate in place

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Parents tell of joy over birth of 'designer baby'

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Services Correspondent

■ The shadow Health Secretary wants the choice of babies' sex banned but parents who made the decision see no moral dilemma

THE couple who used a private clinic to choose their baby's gender spoke yesterday of their delight at the birth of a daughter, while the controversy over "designer babies" increased.

Neil and Gillian Clark, who have two sons, paid the London Gender Clinic £650 to obtain a girl. Mr Clark said that by increasing the odds in favour of a daughter the treatment had eased their minds. "It was definitely worth it. Gillian really wanted a girl," he said. "I don't think we would have had another baby without the treatment."

But David Blunkett, the shadow Health Secretary, called for sex selection for social reasons to be banned as it could "distort population patterns". A spokesman for Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York, said parents should not regard themselves as "consumers selecting a product". Cardinal Basil Hume said the treatment was "potentially socially damaging" and "inconsistent with the Catholic view of procreation".

A contrasting criticism came from a leading professor of anatomy, who said that the technique used by the clinic was no more effective than spinning a coin.

The Clarks said they decided to try the treatment after seeing an item about the clinic on television. Mr Clark, a painter and decorator, said: "Gill loves babies and she had been getting broody. We had had some discussion about a third child but I was quite happy with the two boys."

His wife, a hairdresser, said that she longed for a daughter but wondered whether she was being selfish in wanting another child after a six-year gap. "But then Neil told me about the programme he'd seen and I thought: 'Oh yes, let's go for that'." She said that she saw no moral dilemma in the treatment and said another boy would have been just as loved. The clinic, the only one in Britain to offer sex selection, has treated 200 couples and achieved 14 pregnancies and six births, two of which were the "wrong" sex.

Mr and Mrs Clark, both aged 32, admitted they could not be sure the treatment had worked. "Who knows really? It is just wonderful to us that we have a little girl," Mrs Clark said.

Professor Lynn Fraser, an expert on fertility at King's College, London, said there was no scientific reason why the technique, which is supposed to separate male and female sperm, should succeed. "It probably doesn't work," she said.

Prof Fraser said the Clarks may have paid the clinic to watch nature take its course. She said there was "considerable scepticism" among the scientific community about the technique, which is based on the observation that sperm bearing the X (female) and Y (male) chromosomes swim at different speeds. A sample of fresh sperm is placed on top of a viscous liquid containing albumin (egg white) and the first to swim to the bottom are collected and used to inseminate the woman.

"The Y sperm wiggle more quickly and are supposed to come through sooner," Prof Fraser said. "However, people who have used this method have been unable to show any statistically significant difference in the proportion of X and Y sperm after filtration."

Caroline Perry, a senior nurse at the clinic, set up a year ago in an end-of-terrace house at Hendon, north London, said that the phone had not stopped ringing since news of the Clarks' birth. "We have had about 50 calls this morning when usually we have between five and ten in a whole day."

Janet Daley, page 18

Four out of six obtain gender of their choice

THE London Gender Clinic imposes its own voluntary ethical rules on patients. They should have at least one child of the opposite gender to that requested. If they have several children, the majority must be of the opposite sex (Dominic Kennedy writes).

More than 500 couples have visited the clinic since it opened in January last year. A quarter are white and two-thirds Asian. Nearly all the Asians want sons while most of the whites seek daughters. One woman in her late 30s has had ten daughters: she and her husband have been trying for a boy.

Some couples have travelled to the clinic in Hendon, north London, from the Middle East and from Europe for the treatment.

Of the 500 couples, 150 have been treated so far. Twenty are pregnant and six have given birth. Of those, four had the gender of their choice.

The service costs £650 for the first insemination. If the woman fails to conceive, subsequent inseminations cost £450 each. A typical course of treatment costs £1,500.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Neil and Gillian Clark yesterday with Sophie May, a sister for their two sons

Killing of store boy 'not murder'

By Lin Jenkins

A SHOPLIFTER who killed a schoolboy assistant chasing him from a supermarket is to be sentenced today for manslaughter after a judge stopped his trial for murder.

Andrew Bray, 24, a former soldier, of Lipson, Devon, had admitted killing Jonathan Roberts, 17, but denied murdering him when he punched him in the head and kicked him where he fell during the chase outside a Plymouth supermarket.

Mr Justice Drake made his ruling at Plymouth Crown Court yesterday after hearing a submission from the defence. He told the jury: "It has become my responsibility to intervene and it makes my duty a very hard one where, as in this case, the victim who died was obviously a splendid young man.

"But the fact is that when one looks at the evidence, and the way the prosecution have made their case, they have just simply not made a case on which it is possible to say one can be sure beyond reasonable doubt."

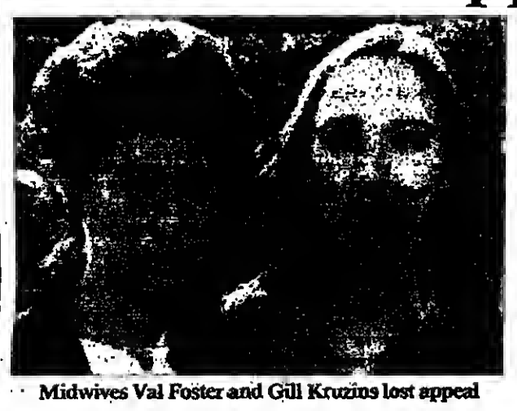
Jonathan's father Chris Roberts, 42, said he was proud of his son. "He did the right thing. But having said that, had he stopped and thought for a second he might still be around. He always stood up for what he thought was right. He had a very competitive edge and he would be determined not to let Bray get away."

The court was told Bray and his girl friend had gone to the supermarket intending to steal. Four staff saw them with two trollies of goods for which they had not paid.

Bray arriving at court yesterday

Water-birth appeal 'makes mockery of mothers' choice'

By Michael Horsnell



Midwives Val Foster and Gill Kruzins lost appeal

TWO midwives who helped a woman to have a water birth at home have lost their appeal against disciplinary action, prompting angry claims that it made a mockery of government moves to give women more choice. The Royal College of Midwives said the decision would have "repercussions for women and midwives across the country".

Valerie French, 35, safely gave birth to her 9lb 3oz daughter Mollie two months ago in a birthing pool at her 16th-century cottage in Sawbridgeworth, Hertfordshire. The midwives, Valerie Foster and Gill Kruzins, attended her after East Hertfordshire NHS Trust told Ms French that she could remain in the pool during labour as long as she got out to give birth.

At the crucial moment Ms French, a college lecturer, twice refused to leave the pool and the midwives had no choice but to accede to her wishes.

In a move that has reopened the debate on water births, the trust employing the midwives reprimanded them for breaking written guidelines and announced yesterday that they had lost their appeal against disciplinary action.

Ms French said: "I think they have been treated appallingly. They have been penalised because they did their jobs properly and because they are caring, dedicated people. They must have gone through hell over this. I never agreed with the trust to get out of the pool at the last minute. It's my house and I had booked a pool in advance. It would have taken some effort to get me to cock my leg over the side of a 3ft pool at the last minute and drag me out. The trust is trying to say they have a power over women which they do not have."

The hearing was accompanied by a demonstration by mothers and representatives of the National Childbirth Trust who delivered a 1,400-signature petition to Dr Paul Lambden, chief executive of the trust. Yvonne Hewins, director of industrial relations for the Royal College of Midwives, called for urgent government guidance, saying: "The decision makes a mockery of the Government initiative to ensure that women have choices in childbirth."

Fears that some babies may have died in water births prompted the Health Department to investigate whether infants born under water suffered higher mortality rates or complications but a ban was ruled out pending an enquiry due to report in November.

The trust used to offer water birth in the home but withdrew the facility at about the time of Mollie's birth on January 16. Dr Lambden said the disciplinary hearing concerned the two midwives' personal conduct and was never about the appropriateness and availability of water births.

The two midwives were not available for comment.

Father shocked at his son's marriage to 'scarlet woman'

By Andrew Pierce

THE former Lady Buck was disowned last night by her new father-in-law, who only discovered her existence when he read the "kiss and tell" revelations of her affair with Sir Peter Harding, Chief of the Defence Staff.

It was a year ago when Stephen Sokolow last saw his son Nicholas, a failed art investor who married the former Bienvenida Buck in January. "It was my 70th birthday, which is how I can remember. Needless to say I am not celebrating my 71st birthday today," Mr Sokolow said yesterday at his flat overlooking Westminster Cathedral.

"The shock of all this is too much to take in. I cannot imagine why he has married such a scarlet woman. I have written to him and telephoned him but he has not responded."

Mr Sokolow, a retired horse breeder, said: "It would be easy to say I will never speak to my son again. But he is my flesh and blood. I hope he will speak to me."

His son, who is 32, was an associate director at Christie's before resigning to set up his own art company. But the firm closed a few months ago with large debts.

The mystery over the background of the former Lady Buck, who describes herself as the daughter of a Valencia lawyer who died 20 years ago, deepens by the hour. It emerged yesterday that despite marrying the art consultant, she still lived in a £250,000 flat in St John's Wood, north London. Her new husband is the owner of a much more modest terraced house in Battersea, southwest London.

Stuart Kuttner, managing editor of the *News of the World*, last night denied it had paid £175,000 for Mrs Sokolow's story. He said: "I am astonished to read that we had paid £175,000. You could divide that by two and still shave off a touch more to get the right figure." The paper promises further revelations this weekend.

Victoria's black silk stockings up for sale

By Alan Hamilton

A PAIR of Queen Victoria's black silk stockings, embroidered with a crown and the initials VR, are expected to make a mere £350 when they come up for auction at Sotheby's next month.

The royal hosiery is being sold by Diana Sime, of Petersfield, Hampshire, whose grandfather won them in a raffle at a society fete at the turn of the century. Mrs Sime has kept them in a drawer as curio, and would now like them to go to an exhibition.

After the death of Prince Albert in 1861, the Queen always dressed in black from head to toe. Her stockings, however, have white tops and white feet.

The embroidered crown and initials are sufficient evidence of their provenance for Sotheby's experts, who are also selling a lock of hair with a note identifying it as coming from Victoria's second son, Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh. A further note indicates that the stockings were originally given by the queen to a member of her entourage, the Hon Mrs Arthur Barnes.

Mrs Sime said: "They are wonderfully made. Queen Victoria had such tiny feet. They look in mint condition; I imagine she must have worn them once and then given them to Mrs Barnes."

The stockings measure 31½in from top to toe, a fair length for a dumpy Hanoverian who stood less than 5ft with her shoes off.

The silk stockings fit for a queen

SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

Guns, murder, ghetto poetry and gangsta rap

BEN MACINTYRE ON THE ART OF VIOLENCE

IN THE

MAGAZINE

FREE CD: Great jazz saxes, second in The Times collection

IN

WEEKEND

Prince turns new page in history

By Marcus Binney
Architecture Correspondent

THE first royal publishing venture hits the news stands this morning with the launch of the Prince of Wales's magazine, *Perspectives on Architecture*. Retailers, led by W.H. Smith and Sainsbury's, have placed orders for 75,000 copies of the magazine, which costs £2.50.

Last night the Prince hosted a reception at St James's Palace for 600 people, including contributors, advertisers and media, architecture and heritage figures. Guests included the architects Sir Norman Foster, Francis Duffy, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and Michael and Patty Hopkins, winners of this year's RIBA gold medal. Also invited were Roy Hattersley and Spike Milligan.

The Prince intends to write regularly for the magazine, launched with a £300,000 loan from his new institute of architecture. In the first edition he says: "I sometimes think of architecture as Dr Johnson thought of London: When a man tires of architecture I think he tires of life."

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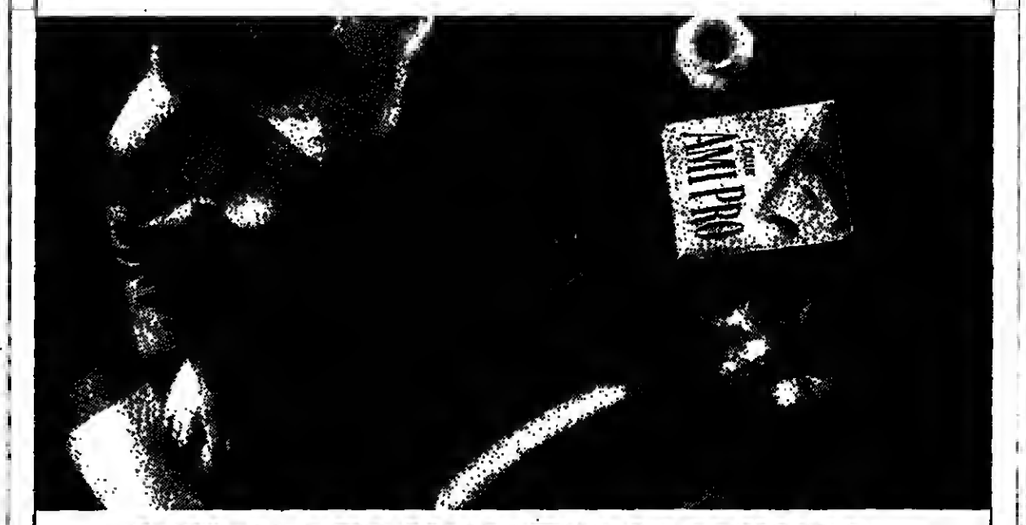

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Talk Radio set to win licence with £3.8m offer

By Alexandra Frean, Media Correspondent

A NEW radio station which aims to break the BBC's grip on talk programmes, has made a £3.8 million cash offer for the licence to run Britain's third national commercial network.

Talk Radio UK yesterday outbid five other contenders and is expected to be awarded the new franchise. The station promises to provide news, chat, phone-ins, drama and information for C1 and C2 listeners aged 25 to 55. It is backed by Media Ventures International, a venture capital fund, and Hambros Bank.

John Aumonier, managing director of Talk Radio UK, said: "We are aiming for a mid-market audience, or the rump of the population. This is an audience which is not catered for anywhere else."

Mr Aumonier said the station would compete directly with existing services, such as Radio 4 or Radio 5 Live, the BBC's new 24-hour news and sports network. He said: "We will offer an alternative to live sports commentary, preferring review and debate from leading players and sports personalities."

The station also has financial backing from Emmis Broadcasting, owner of a number of radio stations in the US, and Prime Television, an Australian broadcaster. It will be chaired by Sir David Nicholas, former chief executive of ITN and plans to broadcast directly from the US and Australia.

The AM station will come on air in early 1995 and broadcast on frequencies to be surrendered by Radio 1. It will complement the two existing independent national radio services, Classic FM and Virgin 1215, which have contributed to the commercial radio sector's challenge to the BBC.

The Radio Authority, which is bound to award the licence to the highest cash bidder, will now enter talks with Talk Radio UK to ensure that it meets minimum financial and programming standards and that its backers are "fit and proper persons" to run a radio station. Its final decision will be announced this summer.

The other bidders were: LBC, the London commercial station which is to lose its existing local licences in October, at £2 million, offering a mix of news, current affairs and debate; Apollo Radio, backed by Chiltern Radio, which bid £2.27 million and offered news, sport and interviews; First National Entertainment, led by John Whitney, the former director-general of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and offering personality-led entertainment, information and news with a bid worth £1.54 million; Jim Black Broadcasting, based in Oxford and bidding £1 million for a service aimed at 10- to 24-year-olds; and Newstalk UK, backed by Associated Newspapers and offering news and information with a bid worth £2.75 million.

☐ BBC Radio 1 has enlisted the help of Batman to help stem its falling ratings. The Caped Crusader will appear on Radio 1's first drama production next month as part of a 65-part series to be broadcast in daily episodes lasting three minutes each.

The initiative is intended to broaden the station's appeal and reverse the dramatic decline in its audience, which has shrunk by more than two million, to 14.3 million, in the past six months.

Matthew Bannister, controller of Radio 1, said: "*Batman* will be fast-moving and tremendously exciting."

Media, page 22

JAMES MORGAN

Three hopefuls for Laurence Olivier stage awards at yesterday's lunch for nominees at the Royal National Theatre, London. Elaine Paige, left, and Julia McKenzie are among nominees for best actress in a musical (*Piaf* and *Sweeney Todd* respectively) and Griff Rhys Jones is on the best comedy performance shortlist for *An Absolute Turkey*. *The Times* is media sponsor for the 1994 awards, to be made next month

Channel 4 takes on American delinquents

By Our Media Correspondent

TWO of America's most controversial television characters, *Beavis and Butt-head*, will make their debut on terrestrial television next month as part of Channel 4's £49 million spring schedule.

The two cartoon figures are adolescents who spend their time sniffing glue, strumming invisible guitars and indulging in arson. They have become cult figures in the US after their appearance on MTV.

Defending his decision to screen the series, John Willis, Channel 4's director of programmes, said he would not be showing an episode which allegedly led a five-year-old Ohio boy to burn down his house. He emphasised that all programmes would be carefully vetted before transmission on Fridays at about 11pm.

Mr Willis said: "It is a very sharp programme. As long as viewers can see that Beavis and Butt-head are meant to be objectionable, then the series works."

Channel 4, which has been severely criticised by the broadcasting watchdogs for transmitting programmes containing bad language, will be testing the regulators' patience even further with two factual programmes dedicated to swear words. In *Expletives Deleted*, Auberon Waugh, editor of the *London Review of Books*, chairs a pastiche version of the panel game *Call My Bluff* in which expert panelists uncover the etymology of swear words. The second programme in the series, *The Greatest F@$#?!! Show on Earth*, examines the use of bad language on television and makes a plea for more tolerance.

☐ Residents of a model village in Yorkshire have voted to lift a five-year ban on satellite television dishes. New Earswick is in a conservation area where most of the buildings are listed, but the desire to watch big-name films and the England cricket team on tour has overcome qualms about aesthetics.

Watchdog rejects complaints against Wonderbra poster

By Our Media Correspondent

BILLBOARD posters which feature a provocative and scantily clad model and advertise the Playtex Wonderbra have been declared "decent" by the Advertising Standards Authority.

A spokeswoman for the authority said yesterday that it had dismissed all 53 complaints it had received about the advertisement. "We only act if we think that the majority of people would find an advertisement offensive or if a minority would be deeply aggrieved by it. We did not think that would apply in this case," she said.

She added that the poster, in which the underwear-clad model asks "or are you just pleased to see me?", brought three complaints in its first two weeks on the streets. "It was only after the media started asking if they represented a new post-feminist, aggressive female image or were simply exploiting women that the complaints started flooding in," she said.

☐ The number of complaints made to the Independent Television Commission, which regulates commercial television, rose almost 25 per cent last year to 4,463.

Criticism of scheduling changes accounted for 32 per cent of complaints, far outnumbering those on matters of taste and decency. Cancelling *Take the High Road*, the Scottish soap opera, generated most letters, 450.

"Or are you just pleased to see me?"

Goya frames personal vision of Spanish life

By Alison Roberts, Arts Reporter

THE opening of the first Goya exhibition to be held in London for more than 30 years was celebrated in grand style last night at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Goya: Truth and Fantasy, held in association with *The Times* and Classic FM, traces the artist's personal vision of Spanish life and customs through more than 100 small-scale paintings.

The party last night mixed the Spanish and British aristocracy with diplomats, ambassadors and figures from the arts world. Among the guests were Lord and Lady Carrington, Lord and Lady Rothschild, the conductor Sir Georg Solti and Manuela Mena Marques, deputy director of the Museo del Prado.

The cartoonist Gerald Scarfe, whose work has been influenced by Goya, was also present.

The exhibition, which opens to the public tomorrow, includes sketches for some of Goya's major religious works. Many portraits, and the remarkable self-portraits of the 1790s, are also on show.

Norman Rosenthal, exhibitions secretary at the Royal Academy, said that the show disclosed a new side of Goya expressed in the small-scale canvases.

The artist's work was making a long overdue return to London, Mr Rosenthal added. The exhibition is part of the London Spanish Arts Festival.

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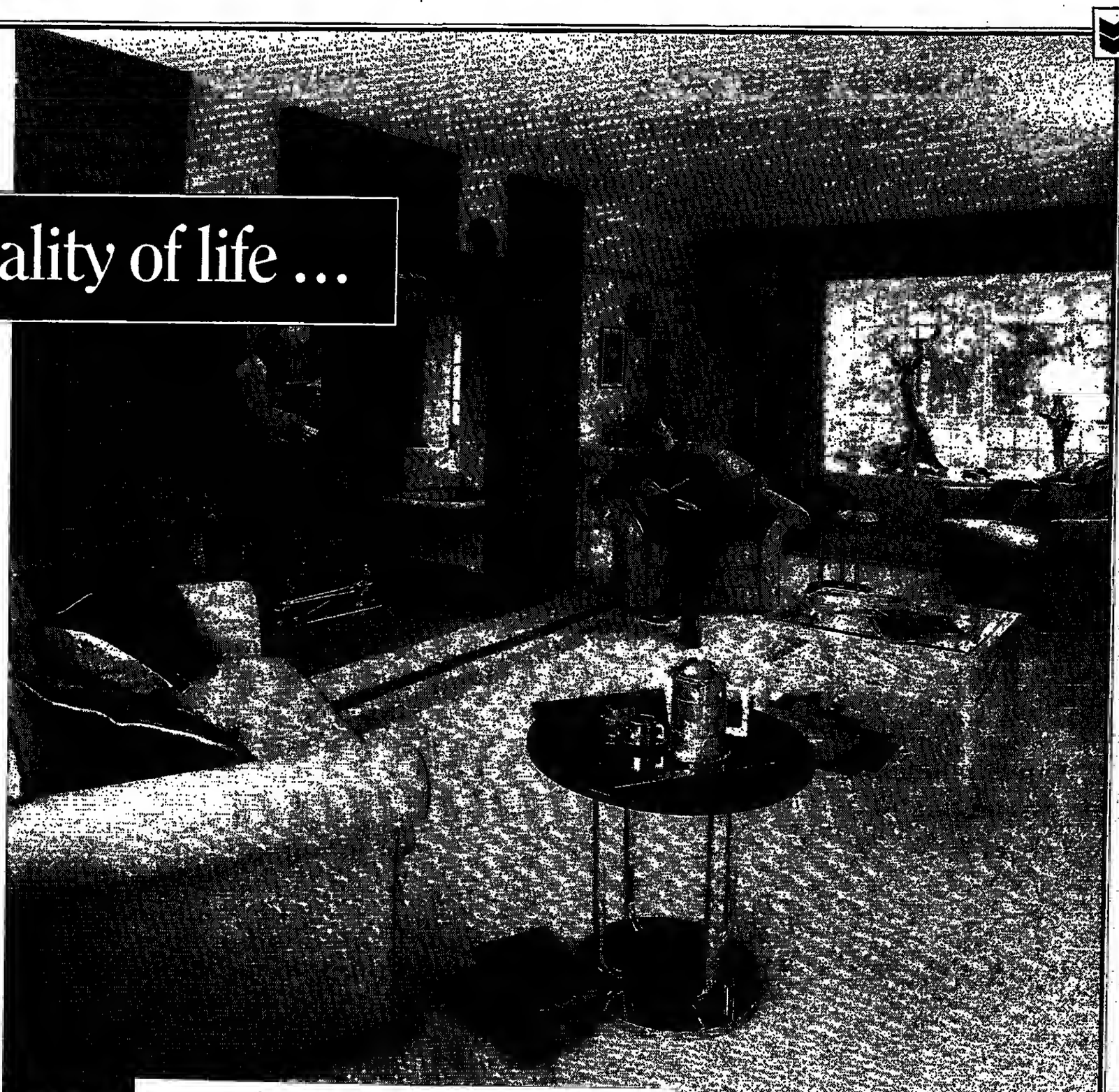

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Curbs on cautions to create thousands of extra court cases

By Richard Ford
Home Correspondent

■ The Home Secretary's effort to calm Tory unrest over juvenile crime may cost an estimated £25 million

THE number of cautions given to offenders is likely to drop by 15 per cent as a result of stricter Home Office guidelines published yesterday. But the Government's effort to crack down on juvenile crime may cost up to £25 million because it could lead to a big increase in court cases, it was claimed.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, acted to restrict the use of cautioning in England and Wales after concern among Conservative politicians that repeated cautions led young people to treat the criminal justice system with derision.

The number of offenders cautioned has risen from 154,000 in 1981 to 321,000 in 1992. There was a particularly large increase of 40,000 between 1991 and 1992.

The new restrictions are likely to lead to 50,000 fewer cautions each year and a substantial rise in the number of offenders dealt with in the courts.

Mr Howard warned criminals yesterday: "From now on, your first chance is your last chance."

He added: "Criminals should know that they will be punished and law-abiding people have a right to expect that offenders will be punished. Giving cautions to serious offenders or the same person time and again sends the wrong message to criminals and the public." But Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, said that ending second and third cautions could result in tens of thousands of extra prosecutions a year, costing an estimated £25 million.

He said: "This will be an expensive measure. It will lead to more custodial sentences, which would be particularly damaging for young offenders who would end up trapped in criminal careers."

Under the new guidelines, police are advised to take into account victims' views of offences before they decide to give a caution. Officers are advised to discover the extent of harm or loss suffered by the victim and whether the offender has offered compensation.

They should also outline the significance of a caution to the victim but must not negotiate or award reparation, the document says.

The guidelines are aimed at stopping the use of cautioning for serious offences, cutting drastically the number of repeated cautions and producing a more consistent approach to cautioning by police in the 43 forces in England and Wales.

Mr Howard said cases of people receiving six cautions were "unacceptable" and were particularly damaging when juveniles were involved because they might begin to think they could get away with anything.

In future, juvenile offenders should not necessarily be cautioned rather than prosecuted just because they are young; cautions should be used only in the most exceptional circumstances for offences triable only at Crown Courts; and repeat cautions should be considered only in exceptional circumstances, such as when there has been an appreciable gap since the last caution was given.

Formal cautions are given by a uniformed officer after a person has admitted an offence. They are written on a person's record and, in the case of juveniles, are delivered by an inspector in the presence of parents or a guardian.

The proposals will reverse the steady rise in the use of cautions as a way of dealing with crime. In 1987, 149,000 offenders were cautioned for offences that could be tried either at the Crown Court or before magistrates compared with 216,000 in 1992. The Home Office said 87 per cent of all those who are cautioned are not convicted for offences within two years.

Mother appeals for her children

A BRITISH woman made an emotional appeal to her estranged husband on Cyprus television last night for the return of her son and daughter, who have been kept illegally by their father, a Greek Cypriot, since they visited him for a holiday last summer.

Their mother, aged 29 and from Derby, arrived on the island last Sunday to collect her children, a boy of 12 and a girl of 7. However, their father, a 36-year-old farmer, refused to hand them over and went into hiding.

On television the woman said: "We have to stop this because we are damaging our children. You can still take them on holiday, but please, please, return them to me."

Police issued a warrant for the man's arrest on Monday after an unsuccessful visit to his home village of Mazatos on Sunday, but he is apparently being shielded by sympathisers from the village.

Annie Shakalli, of the Cypriot Justice Ministry, said a court in Nottingham had given the woman custody of the children pending a divorce settlement.

Princess shocked by media mobbing

By Alan Hamilton

THE Princess of Wales looked visibly shocked when she was mobbed by photographers yesterday as she arrived at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, west London, to visit her day-old nephew.

As she stepped from a chauffeur-driven car, the Princess immediately found herself on the pavement in the middle of a scrum of about 20 cameramen, who have rarely managed to get so close to her.

Looking red-faced and furious, she tried to make her way to the hospital door but was brought to a halt by the crowd surrounding her. The photographers, clicking their cameras only inches from her face, eventually made a path for her to the hospital entrance.

"I can't believe the difference in just a couple of years," one photographer said. "That is the closest I have ever got to her."

Since announcing her withdrawal from most of her public duties last autumn, the Princess has been without her bodyguards from the Metropolitan Police royalty and diplomatic protection group, except when in the company of her children, Prince William and Prince Harry.

Fears have been expressed for her safety during the few public appearances she has made this year but she has told friends that she is determined to lead as normal a life as possible.

Yesterday, the Princess turned her back on ladylike suits, wearing jeans and a long tailored black jacket, white shirt and black tie. The outfit, by Escada, a Munich design company, featured golden elephants embroidered on the cuffs, with matching motifs on the silk tie and belt buckle. She also wore brown suede ankle boots.

The design, featured in the spring/summer range and available in their New Bond Street store, is typical of Escada's flamboyant and colourful style. Chief designer Michael Stolzenburg offered a selection of wild animal designs in this season's collection, along with the mannish silhouette which the Princess strode out in to full effect yesterday.

She was visiting the new Viscount Althorp, who was born at St Mary's on Monday as the first son of her brother, Earl Spencer, and his wife, the former Victoria Lockwood. Their new arrival guarantees a male heir for the family estate at Althorp, Northamptonshire. A spokesman for the hospital said yesterday that mother and son were doing well.

The Princess, who gave birth to Princes William, 11, and Harry, 9, at the same hospital, spent 30 minutes with her sister-in-law Victoria and baby Louis Frederick, who was born on Monday by Caesarean section, weighing 6lb 10oz. The couple already have three daughters — Lady Kitty, 3, and one-year-old twins Katya Amelia and Eliza Victoria.

The back-to-school look — white shirt and elephant motif on the black tie and blazer

Earl Spencer: a male heir for family estate

NEWS IN BRIEF

£27,500 for boy mauled by lions

A boy who was mauled by two lions while working at a safari park was awarded £27,500 agreed damages yesterday at the High Court in Belfast.

Richard Murphy, 16, was attacked while on the gate at Causeway Safari Park, near his home in Ballymoney, Co Antrim. "When I turned round one was at my feet and another put two paws on my shoulder and neck and pulled me to the ground," he said.

The boy was wounded on the head, neck and body but was saved by a warden who pulled the lion off him. Damages were awarded against the owners of the park.

Taunting rapist

A sex attacker who dubbed himself Jack the Stripper in a taunting letter to police was jailed for 12 years by Leeds Crown Court. David Jackson, 28, from Leeds, was convicted of raping a woman only weeks after his wedding and assaulting four others.

Brigade abuser

A Boys Brigade leader was convicted of 14 indecency charges against boys in his company by Snaresbrook Crown Court, London. Lawrence Curtis, 27, a father of two from South Woodford, northeast London, will be sentenced after reports.

Cornish petition

The European Parliament is to consider a petition from the historic Stannary Parliament of Cornwall for the county to be recognised as a nation with its own government.

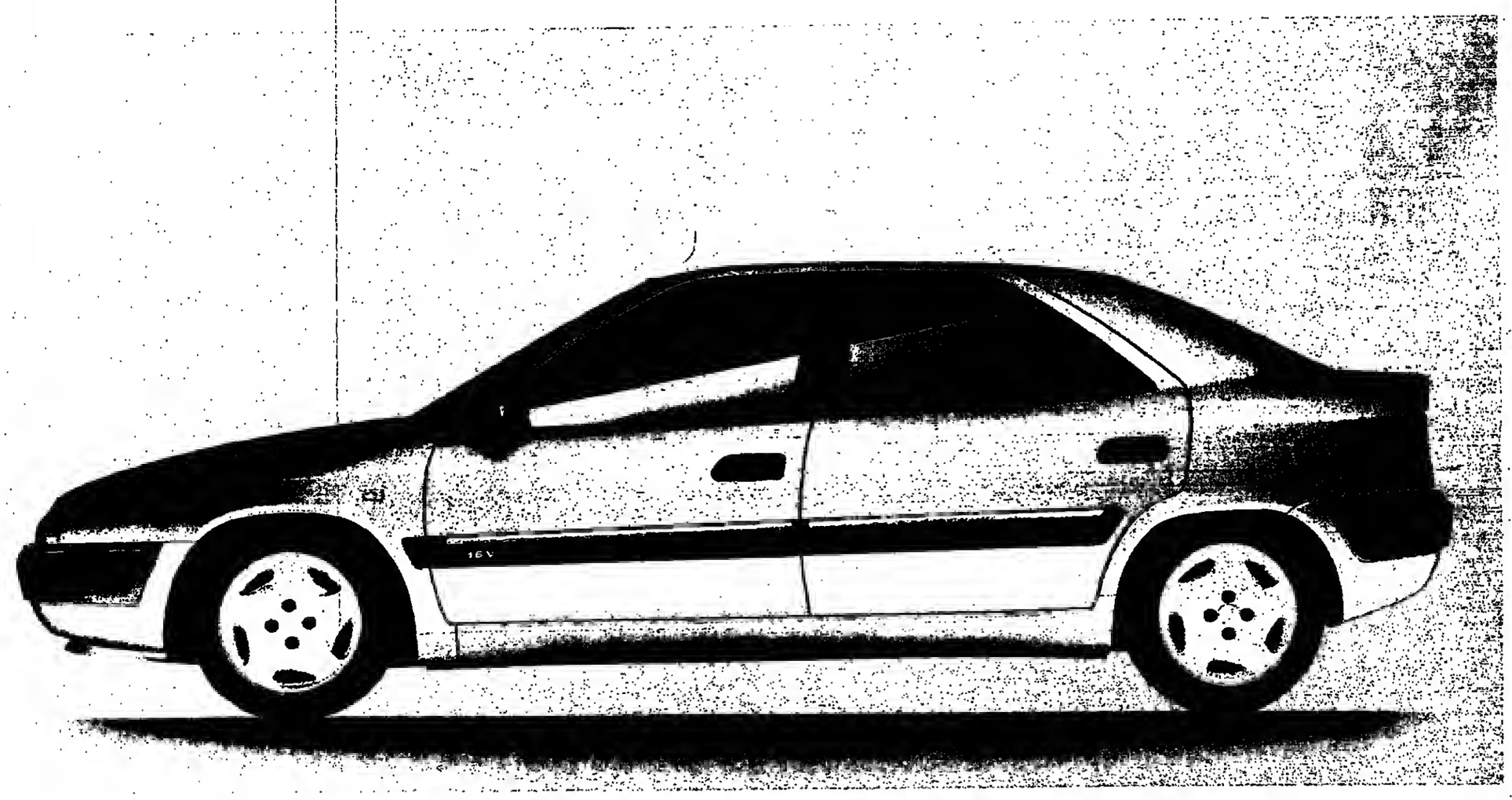
Footpath fine

The Hon Richard Stanley, son of Lord Stanley of Alderley, was fined £250 for obstructing a footpath by building a reservoir at his farm at Stanton St John, Oxfordshire.

Ferry closes

The Olau Line ferry service that links Sheerness, Kent, with Flushing in Holland is to close with the loss of 550 jobs. P&O may buy the two ships.

EVEN STANDING STILL IT'S MOVING.



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Parents risk children's lives on daily run to school

By Kevin Eason, motoring correspondent

PARENTS are risking the lives of thousands of children on the daily school run because they are not belted into child seats.

As the Government launched a £500,000 campaign yesterday to save 130 lives and prevent 2,500 serious injuries a year among rear seat passengers in cars, it was shown that children are most vulnerable when parents or others carry out the daily duty of transporting children the few miles to their schools.

Research commissioned by Britax, the child seat manufacturer, for the Transport Department found that half of children aged from four to seven were not in seats specially designed for them when taken on the school run by parents. Almost a third were not in car seats when given lifts to school by friends, neighbours and relations.

Even a treat with grandparents carried its own risk. Thirty seven per cent of children had no restraint when they went out in their grandparents' car.

The Department gave a warning that rear seat passengers faced heavy fines for not wearing seat belts. Robert Key, the roads minister, said that only about half of adults wore rear belts. That broke the law imposed in 1991 under which drivers could be fined up to £100 if a child under 14 was not properly belted and a maximum of £500 on rear-seat adults.

The ultimate penalty was death, Mr Key said. "Front-seat passengers wear seat belts not just because the law says they must, but also because they feel vulnerable. Rear seat passengers do not feel so exposed or vulnerable, they feel safely tucked away in an area of padded seats, they feel safe from danger. Yet the reality is that you are not safe just because you are riding in the back.

"In a collision you can be thrown against the door pillar or the roof or right through the window. The one thing you can be sure of is that you won't come to a halt until you hit something hard."

The careless attitude of motorists spilled over to their children. A Department survey of all cars showed that 25 per cent of children aged between five and 13 were not properly belted in the rear seats. Where belts were fitted as standard in new cars, the rate of belt-wearing among children rose to 86 per cent.

Britax said that motorists often adopted a "make-do" policy, mistakenly assuming that the wrong equipment pressed into service would be good enough to save their children. The company said 56 per cent of parents believed that fastening one belt around two children would be good enough if there was no other equipment, but that could result in serious injury in a crash.

One in five parents would be happy to tie a child car seat to the car with rope. Britax said that was "totally against manufacturer instructions and could prove fatal".

Key: death is the ultimate penalty

CHRIS HARRIS

Paul Curry, a fisheries inspector, releases roach and chub which have been training in wave tunnels in preparation for the wild

'Muscle-bound' fish put life into Rother

By Nick Nuttall, environment correspondent

■ Scientists are to monitor new residents in what was once Europe's dirtiest river to see if tighter pollution controls are needed

FISH are again swimming in a river that was once Europe's dirtiest and had been virtually lifeless since the industrial revolution.

Biologists with the National Rivers Authority yesterday released the first of 5,000 fish into the Rother in Yorkshire after a two-year clean-up operation that has led to sharp falls in contamination from local industry and sewage works.

Scientists are to monitor the fish to see if they breed. If the roach and chub die or fail to multiply, the scientists will know that tougher action is needed on the river. Dick Kirk, environmental protection principal with the authority, said: "We have been waiting a long time for this day."

Biologists said the fish to the early settlers of the American Wild West: "These fish are pioneers. They are the first settlers in the river and it depends on how the Indians treat them."

The fish have been undergoing "body building exercises" in wave tunnels at the authority's fish farm at Calverton, Nottinghamshire. Mr Kirk said: "Fish from a pond are relatively short on muscle. You have to train them a bit like aerobics in running water if they are to survive.

"They are going into the river when there is more clean water than normal because it is the end of winter with higher flows and they are fighting fit. We have every reason to believe they will survive," he said.

The Rother, which rises at Clay Cross, Derbyshire, and runs for 31 miles before meeting the river Don at Rotherham, has been a byword for industrial river pollution and has often been described as Europe's filthiest river. For decades it suffered heavy contamination from coal mines, a string of chemical and coking companies and high levels of sewage from Chesterfield and Sheffield.

Mr Kirk, who has been studying the Rother for about 30 years said up to two years ago the river was so polluted that it was impossible to see the bottom even during dry summer months. "It was dark brown with a pronounced chemical smell. Now, in reasonable conditions, you can see the gravel on the bottom," he said.

Part of the improvements have been due to the decline of traditional industries such as coal mining and coking. Only one Coalite factory at Bolsover, Derbyshire, remains.

But Mr Kirk said credit was also due to Coalite and Rhone Poulenc, a French chemical company, which had dramatically reduced the toxicity of discharges into the river with modern pollution control equipment. Yorkshire Water has also spent £25 million oo sewage treatment works.

However, Mr Kirk advised anglers to throw back any of the fish they catch. "I would not eat fish from the Rother oow or in ten years time. The Rother is never going to be a high quality water course. It has been suffering long enough and hard enough. Now we have the first sights of it beginning to get better."

Lugworms let off the hook in bait dispute

By Paul Wilkinson

THE lugworm, prized bait for generations of sea anglers, is at the centre of a dispute between fishermen and conservationists. The protectionists want to stop the anglers digging up worm beds in the heart of one of England's most significant nature reserves. The anglers see the ban as the first step towards a ban on bait-digging throughout the country.

The two camps locked horns yesterday at the start of a public enquiry in Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland, close to the worm beds in the sands of Budle Bay. Such was the intensity of feeling among the anglers that two coachloads packed the public gallery.

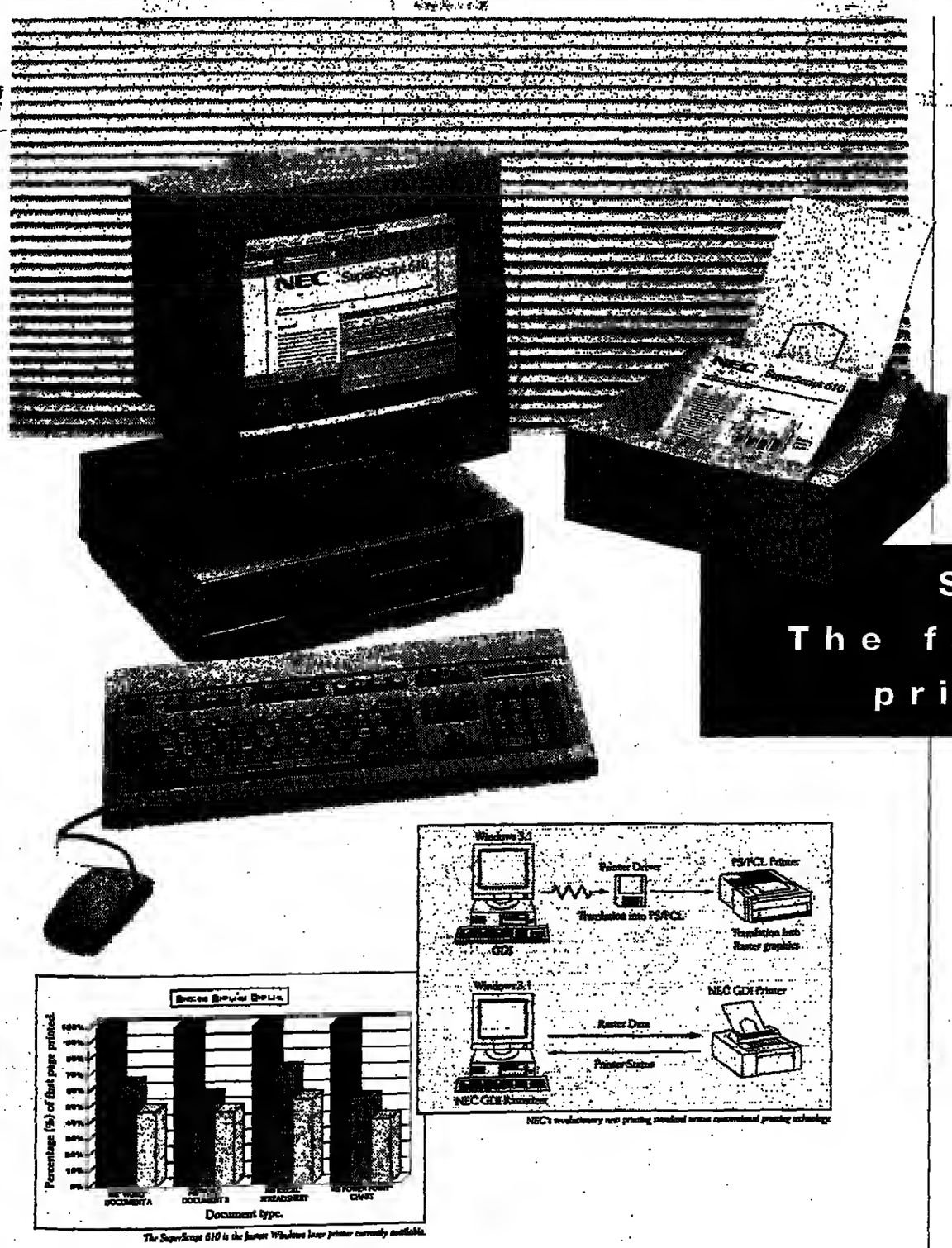
The enquiry, which is expected to last six days, will consider an objection by the Northern Federation of Sea Angling Societies to a conservation order forbidding bait-digging imposed last year by English Nature.

The conservationists say digging can seriously damage the sands of the bay, which is a protected wildfowl site and forms part of the 9,800-acre Lindisfarne nature reserve. English Nature is also concerned that bait-digging disturbs nesting birds and increases the release of toxic pollutants from the sand.

The federation, which speaks for more than 12,000 sea anglers, protested to the Environment Department and has received letters of support from 5,000 fishermen who are not club members.

Alan Charlton, the federation's spokesman, said: "The issue is the public's common law right to fish and collect bait.

"This is the major lugworm bed in the North East, providing bait for hundreds of anglers, yet the area involved is only a tiny section of a huge reserve. "We are not against conservation but there is concern over the ban being extended to other areas," he said.



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Defiant senior churchman resigns

Vatican warning of shadow over accord

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

TEN more women were ordained to the priesthood last night, taking the number of female priests in England to 42. At the same time, a senior churchman announced his resignation over the issue, while the Vatican declared that women's ordination "casts a shadow" over agreements reached between the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches.

Repeating past warnings, a Vatican spokesman said the ordination of women "constitutes a very deep obstacle to every hope of union between the Catholic Church and the Anglican communion".

Lord Runcie, former Archbishop of Canterbury, preaching at the ordination service at Sheffield Cathedral, appealed for traditionalists to be open to the possibility of change and praised the "tough gentleness" that women could bring to the Church.

But Canon Roger Job, vice dean and precentor of Winchester Cathedral, said the priesthood of the Church of England should remain male until changed by "a greater body than the General Synod". Canon Job, the second most senior Anglican in the Winchester Cathedral hierarchy and the longest-serving precentor in the Church of England, said: "For me the ordination of women priests is a breach of church order."

He is representative of a number of traditionalists who would describe themselves as Anglo-Catholic or Tractarian, a person who follows a system of High Church principles set out in a series of tracts at the start of the Oxford Movement in the 19th century.

Canon Job added: "The Church of England claims to be a true part of the Catholic Church. Her priesthood therefore must remain male until a greater body that the General Synod should determine otherwise. Consequently, I can never accept these women priests."

The ordinations at Sheffield gave an indication of the difficulties faced by traditionalists in coming to terms with the biggest change to their church since the Reformation. The Right Rev David Lunn, Bishop of Sheffield, who opposes women priests but is fighting for church unity, did not carry out the ordinations. He was present, however, at the service while the women were ordained by his suffragan, the Right Rev Michael Gear, Bishop of Doncaster.

Lord Runcie said: "We should not be shy about being a traditionalist. If you are secure in it you should be able to see that tradition is a living thing and therefore it changes. But as it changes, it remains the same thing."

He added: "We need to rediscover what Christian leadership is like. If we do, we will find ourselves looking to the kind of tough gentleness with which countless women down the centuries have sustained their families."

The ordinations, the first in the Church's northern province of York, came after further criticism from the Roman Catholic Church. Joaquin Navarro-Valls, director of the Vatican press office, said the ordination of women priests failed to take into account the ecumenical dimensions. "It is not just a question of equality or justice but touches the very reality of the Church and the way in which the Church understands its sacraments," he said.

MICHAEL POWELL

Lucy Beevor, top, and Rachel Weston adjusting one of four embroidered hangings that will form the only scenery for the Shakespeare Globe Theatre being recreated at Southwark, central London. The hangings, made by New Zealand craftspeople as a gift to Britain, went on show at the Foreign Press Association, Pall Mall. They will be unveiled on the Globe stage next month by the Duke of Edinburgh

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene
Chess Correspondent

Kasparov's catastrophe

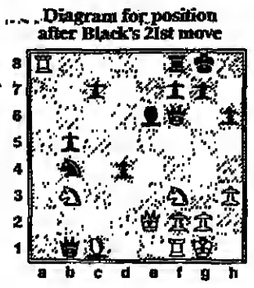
As his arch rival, the Fide champion Anatoly Karpov, sailed to the most glorious triumph of his career, perhaps even the greatest tournament victory in chess history, PCA champion Garry Kasparov suffered the further humiliation of losing in the final round to the young Frenchman Joel Lautier. Lautier, whose debut it was, refuted Kasparov's over-optimistic play with a vigorous counterattack. By move 21 Lautier had two queens on the board and Kasparov capitulated when his material deficit had become embarrassing.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Joel Lautier
Linares, March 1994

Guioco Piano

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bc4	Bc5
4	c3	Nf6
5	d3	d6
6	Bb3	h6
7	h3	a6
8	Nbd2	Be6
9	Bc2	Ba7
10	Qe2	Qe7
11	b4	d5
12	a4	b5
13	0-0	0-0
14	axb5	axb5
15	d4	exd4
16	e5	dxc3
17	exf6	Qxf6
18	Nb3	Nxb4
19	Bb1	d4
20	Rxa7	c2
21	Rxa8	cxb1Q

Diagram for position after Black's 21st move



22	Rxf8+	Kxf8
23	Qxb5	Qxb3
24	Qb8+	Ke7
25	Qxc7+	Ke8
26	Bd2	Qd8
27	Qe5	Kf8
28	Nxd4	Nd3
29	Qe3	Qc4

White resigns

Winning Move, page 48

Final crosstable

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
1	Karpov	*	½	½	1	1	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	11
2	Shirov	½	*	½	0	1	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	1	½	8½
3	Kasparov	½	½	*	1	0	0	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	½	8½
4	Bareev	0	1	0	*	½	½	½	½	1	1	0	1	½	1	7½
5	Kramnik	0	0	1	½	*	½	½	½	0	½	½	1	1	1	7
6	Lautier	0	1	1	½	½	*	1	0	1	0	½	0	1	½	7
7	Anand	½	½	0	½	½	0	*	1	0	0	½	1	1	1	6½
8	Karsky	½	0	0	½	½	1	0	*	½	½	½	1	½	1	6½
9	Topalov	0	0	½	0	1	0	1	½	*	1	1	½	0	1	6½
10	Ivanchuk	0	0	0	0	½	1	1	½	0	*	½	1	½	1	6
11	Gelfand	0	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	0	½	*	0	½	½	5½
12	Beliavsky	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	½	0	1	*	1	1	4½
13	Polgar	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	½	1	½	½	0	*	1	4
14	Belinsky	0	½	½	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	*	2

The table gives the result of every game from Linares: 1 signifies a win, ½ a draw, 0 a loss.

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Ministers bow to growing public demand for Sunday horse-racing

Betting law reform on the cards

By Jill Sherman and Philip Webster

THE Government is planning a boost for the racing industry by giving MPs the opportunity to vote for betting on Sundays.

After the relaxation of shopping restrictions on Sundays, Home Office ministers now accept that MPs should be allowed a free vote on gambling on the sabbath. If they support the change, Britain would come into line with many other European countries and allow racing on Sundays, with massive benefits for the industry and an expected big increase in revenue for the Treasury.

A tussle is going on between the Home Office and the Department of Trade and Industry over the timing of legislative change. Home Office ministers are suggesting the introduction of a new Bill, possibly in the next session of Parliament. But DTI ministers are prepared for an amendment to be tabled to the Deregulation Bill at its report stage in the Commons.

Neil Hamilton, the minister in charge of the Bill, is known to be in favour of breaking down barriers. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, also a keen deregulator, is seen as an ally by many in the racing fraternity and is credited with having removed much of the traditional Home Office caution on the issue.

Some ministers are nervous about pressing ahead with a Sunday betting vote before the Sunday trading relaxation has cleared its final legislative hurdles in the House of Lords. But most ministers now believe that the growing public demand for Sunday racing must be met.

Sunday racing cannot succeed without on and off course betting. An amendment to remove restrictions on bookmakers operating on Sundays would, if it was carried during the passage of the Deregulation Bill, mean that Sunday racing could start as early as next autumn. Three trial Sunday race meetings over the past two seasons have been well supported, proving to the industry that there is a demand for it. But racing cannot prosper without betting. The disclosure yesterday that the Home Office now accepts that a new vote should be allowed was welcomed strongly by industry sources. One said: "The Home Office has been holding out against the rest. The Treasury wants it; the DTI wants it. Now it seems they have accepted the inevitability of change."

However, the leading campaigners are clearly keener that the change should come if at all possible in the Deregulation Bill. They fear that the Home Office suggestion of a new Bill is a way of delaying the issue for a few months while the Sunday trading legislation is safely pushed through.

The Labour Party would be expected to allow a free vote on the issue if it came on the Deregulation Bill: Robin Cook, the shadow industry secretary, is an avid racegoer and writes a newspaper column about it.

James Paice, Conservative MP for South East Cambridgeshire, and chairman of the all-party parliamentary racing committee, is a key figure in the delicate discussions going on between the industry and the government.

Paice: key figure in the delicate negotiations

Hamilton: in favour of breaking down barriers

Political battles invade nursery

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

MINISTERS are hoping to publish a white paper on education for the under-fives by the autumn to ensure that their political opponents do not hijack John Major's "big idea" on education at the party conferences.

Government advisers are developing a series of options for expanding pre-school provision for a Cabinet discussion before the summer recess. The aim is to announce a limited programme by the end of the year, with further commitments to follow in the manifesto for the next election.

Mr Major has made it clear that the under-fives are his priority for education spending. John Patten, the Education Secretary, has promised to expand provision "as soon as resources permit".

Nursery schooling is fast becoming the main education battleground for the parties, with Labour and the Liberal Democrats both committed to offering places for all three- and four-year-olds. Ministers will face new pressure to follow suit tomorrow, when a high-profile study will claim that the policy can be implemented without increasing public spending.

The *Start Right* report, compiled by a team of educationists and industrialists under the chairmanship of Sir Christopher Ball, a former warden of Keble College, Oxford, will argue that investment in nurseries would bring savings through lower juvenile crime and improved educational performance. It is expected to advocate raiding other parts of the education budget to finance the initial expansion.

The report has been studied by Downing Street advisers, who have also considered a voucher system to integrate state schools and nurseries with private nurseries and playgroups. One favoured option is to guarantee places for four-year-olds, either at school or in nursery classes, indicating a longer-term ambition to bring in three-year-olds.

About a third of local authorities are now admitting "rising fours" to primary school reception classes. An expansion of such provision would cost much less than the £1 billion a year quoted by Mr Patten this week as the cost of providing nursery places for all three- and four-year-olds.

However, this approach would be opposed by childcare and education lobbies, which see school as an unsuitable environment for young children.

Lib Dems accuse Patten of '49 fibs'

By Nicholas Wood

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday accused John Patten, the Education Secretary, of telling 49 "fibs" about their education policies. They released a dossier detailing the "misrepresentations and inaccuracies" in a paper published last week by Mr Patten.

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrat education spokesman, said: "This document and its ludicrous claims show how desperate the Tories have become and how worried they are by the Liberal Democrats. It seems that the Secretary of State has been distinctly 'lax with the veracity' and I hope that he will check his facts in future."

Mr Foster said the Tory claim that his party's education commitments would cost an extra £4.4 billion was false. The pledge to earmark the revenue from an extra 1p on the basic rate of income tax would raise £1.8 billion this year and £2.3 billion next. The party had never pretended this would be enough to achieve immediately all its policy objectives.

The Liberal Democrats were committed to providing nursery places for all three- and four-year-olds whose parents wanted them. But it was not committed to abolishing student loans or creating 40,000 extra education jobs. Nor would the party ensure that all classes contained no more than 30 pupils. It merely believed this should be the upper limit.

But the other Tory "fibs" seemed more matters of interpretation. Mr Patten had claimed that the Liberal Democrats would abolish grant-maintained schools and open enrolment. While challenging these claims, Mr Foster said local authorities would determine school admission policies — an approach that would cut across open enrolment — and that grant-maintained schools would be "reintegrated into a single coherent framework for local strategic planning".

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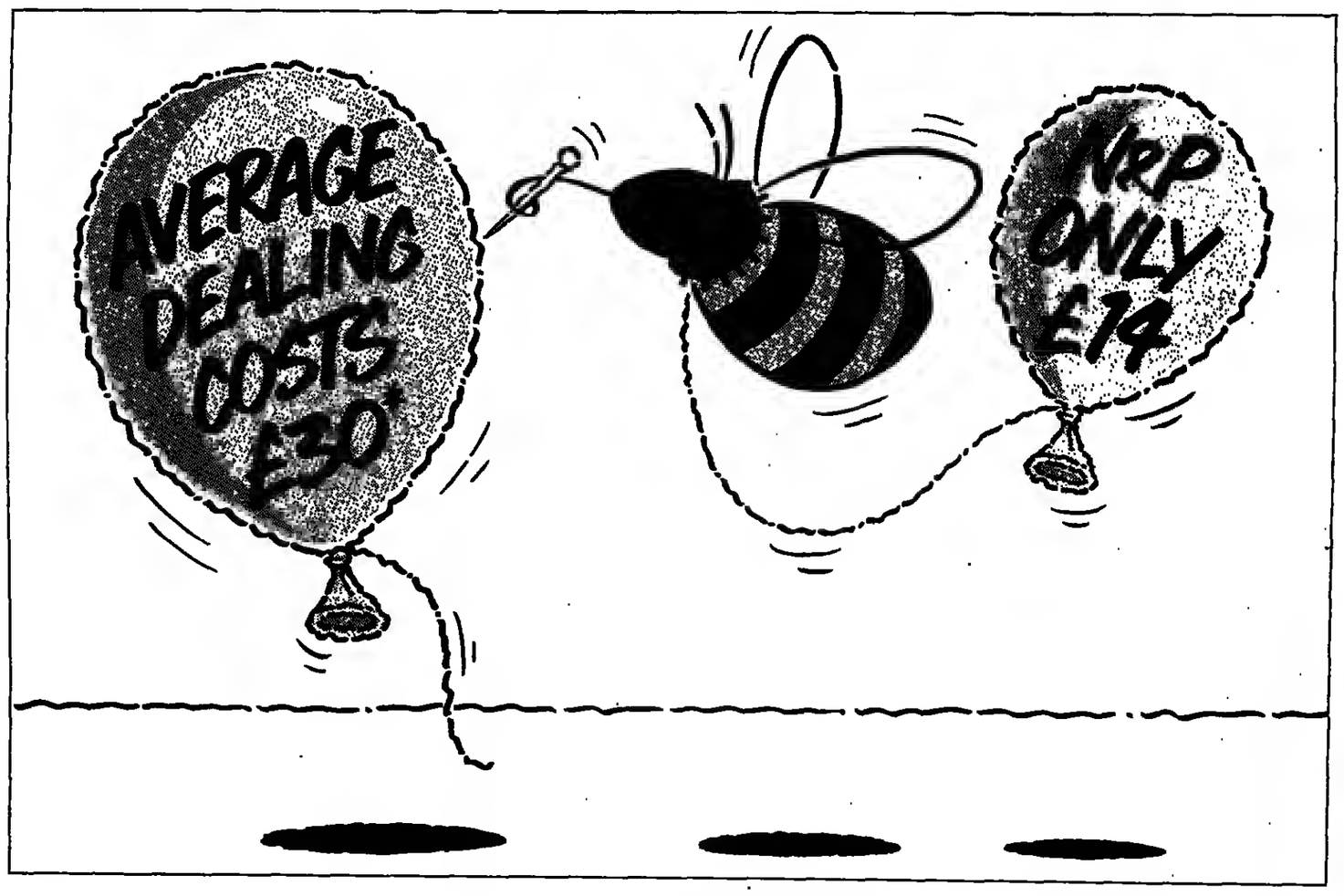

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Political will must be hardened in the fire of IRA's armed struggle

It is time to start ignoring the Provisional IRA, Gerry Adams and, for that matter, John Hume as well. Ever since the joint Downing Street declaration was launched three months ago, the spotlight has been on Mr Adams and his pleas for more time and "clarification". This has become a damaging distraction.

Whatever the IRA meant to achieve by its mortar attacks on Heathrow — a symbolic reminder of its existence or more — it was hardly a positive response and could easily have been a murderous and bloody one. So there was no dissent from John Major's dismissive words yesterday about the IRA "not bombing their way back to the negotiating table".

There were the usual calls for tighter security, and British ministers, under pressure from Tory MPs and Ulster Unionists, are impatient with the response of the Irish government. But they do not want to jeopardise the new Irish Extradition Bill, removing references to "political" offences, which awaits passage through the Senate in Dublin. British ministers will remain sceptical until the Irish courts show a willingness to extradite terrorist suspects. The Government can hardly complain since the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985 conceded a role for Dublin.

There is always more to be done on security, on the mainland and in Northern Ireland. But there are no panaceas and ministers see no point in raising the stakes, hence the bipartisan agreement not to make a Commons statement on the Heathrow attacks.

The real political issue is not security. The priority is how to get the December declaration back on track. That means ignoring the IRA's prevaricating tactics. They have been given enough time. Mr Hume, the SDLP leader, is no help. His calls for direct talks with Sinn Fein have given a cloak of respectability to Mr Adams and led to his invitation to New York. Mr Adams's failure to make concessions then and the IRA's subsequent behaviour have antagonised those in Washington who supported his visa application. While Mr Hume continues to be fêted in America, his standing has been undermined by his association with Mr Adams.

That is also a trap for Labour since Kevin McNamara, its Northern Ireland spokesman, has for long been closely identified with Mr Hume and the constitutional nationalists. Mr McNamara's nationalism has been the strongest prop to the Ulster Unionists' backing for the Tories in the Commons. Ministers have also been careful to keep open links with Seamus Mallon, the other main SDLP leader, who has been more distant from the Hume-Adams talks.

The Dublin government, which was originally willing to give the IRA more time, has become visibly impatient with Sinn Fein and keener to press on with the three strands of the political initiative. But nothing is likely to happen until after the European elections in June. The Ulster Unionists will not participate in joint negotiations. But this is largely symbolic, to head off any threat from Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists. James Molyneaux, the Unionist leader, who saw the Prime Minister yesterday, remains in talks with Michael Ancram, a Northern Ireland minister, about reviving democratic institutions in the province.

The current mood is a long way from the unrealistically high hopes of mid-December. The IRA is not yet ready, or united enough, to abandon the armed struggle. The only sensible way forward is to lower expectations, tighten security where possible, carry on with political discussions and avoid dramatic gestures. The joint declaration is no magic solution, but abandoning it would only make the situation worse.

PETER RIDDELL

Gummer seeks to make life difficult for the motorist

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

JOHN Gummer, the Environment Secretary, yesterday stepped up his campaign against the explosive growth of the car by signalling tough new restrictions on parking spaces, out-of-town industrial parks and the development of housing on the edges of villages and small towns.

In a joint announcement with Robert Key, the Transport Minister, Mr Gummer unveiled the Government's new guidance to local authorities on transport.

Planning policy guidance 13 makes it clear that developments which increase the need for cars should be resisted in favour of ones that encourage the use of buses, railways, walking and cycling. "The Government recognises that forecast levels for traffic growth especially in urban areas cannot be met in full and that new road building or the upgrading of existing highways may be environmentally unacceptable," it says.

The guidance also spells out for the first time to planners the Government's commitment to see people living, working and playing at the heart of public transport networks which are, in the main, in the inner cities. It urges local authorities to resist building local roads if better links between new developments and public transport can be made instead.

"The main theme is that we need to enjoy all the benefits of access to places, but in ways that reduce the need to travel," Mr Gummer said. Reducing car travel would reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, the gas linked with global warming, and deliver other environmental benefits.

"The document urges councils to make life difficult for the motorist. New office, retail and housing schemes should have severely limited parking spaces. In the past planners have tried to match the level of parking with the number of people working or living in a building.

> "The Government recognises that forecast levels for traffic growth cannot be met in full"

Restricting cars by traffic calming measures should also be an integral part of the planning system, Mr Gummer said.

The moves were yesterday welcomed by environmental groups. Fiona Reynolds, director of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "This document spells out very clearly that the Government is committed to development that takes place in urban areas as opposed to more suburbanisation of the countryside. It has now made this a formal objective of policy and gives local authorities practical advice on delivering it."

Ms Reynolds said it was now up to the Department of Transport to take on board the messages and curtail its national roadbuilding programme. She said trunk roads and motorways, which the Government rather than councils were responsible for, could undermine attempts to halt urban sprawl, damage to the countryside and the growth of the car.

Ms Reynolds said the planning guidance still emphasised the misguided belief that trunk roads were not used by local traffic but were used primarily for long-distance driving. "A classic example of where that is complete nonsense is the M25 ... it is certainly used by local traffic," she said.

Stephen Joseph, director of Transport 2000, also welcomed the document but said the rhetoric needed to be backed up with better funding and proper planning for public transport.

"Local authorities and developers cannot plan development around deregulated bus services which are constantly chopping and changing routes almost weekly," he said.

Bill mix-up ties transport police hands

By Jonathan Prynn, Political Reporter

THE Government is to rush a one-clause Bill through Parliament to clear up a legal mess that would have left transport police powerless away from trains and stations.

The Bill must be on the statute book by Easter or from April 1 the 1,700 police officers responsible for law and order on Britain's railway network will be unable to pursue suspects and make arrests away from railway premises.

The confusion has provoked fury among senior officers of the British Transport Police at a time of heightened security in London after the IRA bombings at Heathrow airport. Their forces would have been unable to carry out a follow-up security operation in the streets around a BR station after a terrorist attack.

The confusion stems from a parliamentary mix-up during the passage of the Rail Privatisation Bill last November. At present transport police can investigate crimes and make arrests anywhere in the country if the offence occurred under the jurisdiction of the British Rail Board. However, amendments transferring these powers to RailTrack, which will be responsible for rail infrastructure after privatisation, were lost in the panic surrounding the final stages of the Bill. The legislation ran into difficulties when the Lords inflicted a series of defeats on the Government.

Earl Ferrers, a Home Office minister in the Lords, announced that the Government would introduce a one-clause Bill "at the earliest possible opportunity". The Bill will not be opposed by Labour and should have an easy passage before Easter.

British Transport Police dealt with 82,000 crimes committed on or around BR or London Underground property last year. They included three murders, 2,400 crimes of violence and 800 sexual offences. Most of the serious crimes involved investigations off railway premises.

NHS trusts 'spend millions on perks'

By Robert Morgan, Political Staff

NHS trusts are spending millions of pounds on perks for managers rather than on patient care, Labour claimed yesterday.

More than £24 million was spent on cars in the last financial year, with the average trust spending £156,000 — an increase of 65 per cent — David Blunkett, the shadow Health Secretary, said.

Labour's figures, culled from written answers, show big increases in spending on cars, travel and subsistence in 1992-93 compared with the previous financial year. Some trusts increased spending by more than 200 per cent. At Kingston Hospital in south-west London the bill for cars rose by more than 250 per cent.

During Prime Minister's question time, John Smith said most people wanted more money spent on patient care and not on cars. John Major retorted that the Labour Leader should concentrate on the number of people treated, either in individual establishments or in general. It was right to devolve responsibility for running trusts rather than centralise it, he said.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: environment. Motions in relation to changes to Finance Bill and on rating and valuation.
Lords (2.30): Debates on care in the community and on defence.

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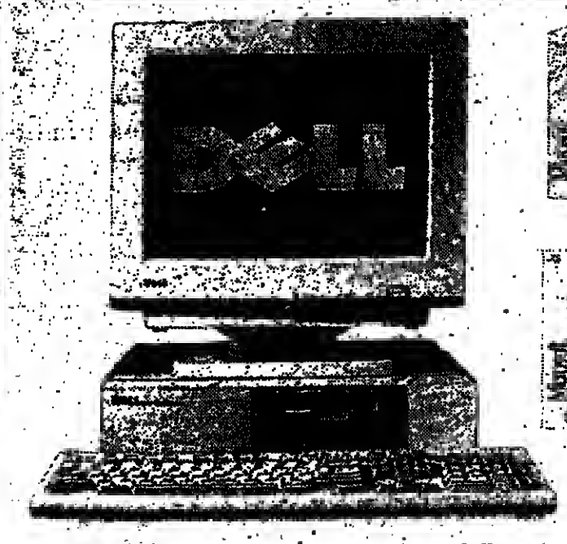

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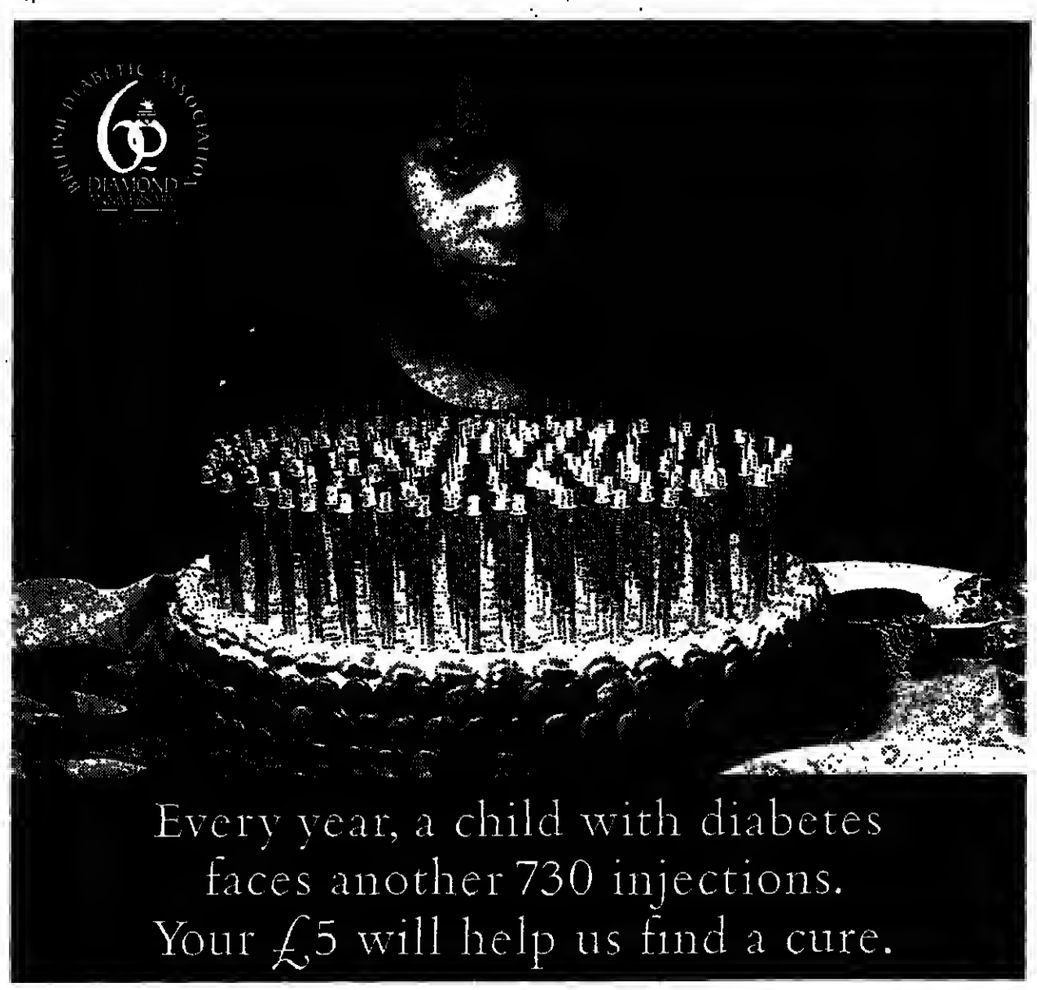

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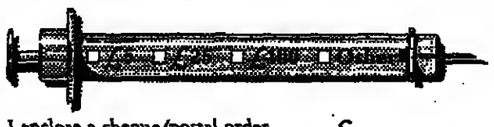

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Australia branded as simple target for Kremlin spies

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

NEW British surveillance equipment designed in the 1980s to track the movements of Soviet nuclear submarines was monitored by Soviet spies, who took advantage of the poor security by the project's Australian co-developers.

Australia was branded a weak link in Western security last night in an Australian Broadcasting Corporation television investigation following the expulsion of six Russian spies last year. The expulsions, reportedly on CIA directions, were kept quiet by the Australian government, which is embarrassed at its image as a soft target used by Moscow during and since the Cold War. The expulsions were only exposed last month by an opposition MP.

A spy hunt is under way to identify a network of as many as 30 Russian-recruited agents. The investigation was confirmed last night in an interview with David Sadlier, Director-General of the Australian Secret Service.

Through its shared military and commercial operations with Britain and the United States, Australia is still considered to be a more relaxed target for Russia to learn about its more powerful allies. The security breach could date back ten years, or possibly 30 years as the case of the last Soviet spy in Australia, Vladimir Petrov, is reopened. A Russian translator with the Australian secret service, George Sadil, has been committed for trial in Canberra for handing over intelligence secrets that would have been passed on to MI6 and the CIA.

Last night the programme *Lateline* offered the first specific details of Soviet penetration and damage. The target in the late 1980s was the joint Anglo-Australian development of the world's most sophisticated sonar buoy for tracking Soviet submarine movements. The Barra sonar buoy was used by Britain in the Atlantic and Australia in the Far East.

Developed in a project between Plessey and the Australian government's Defence Science and Technology Organisation and the Australian AWA defence manufacturer, the buoy has 25 underwater hydrophones. They are dropped by RAF Nimrod surveillance aircraft for the Royal Navy, and by Australian Air Force Orion aircraft for the Australian Navy.

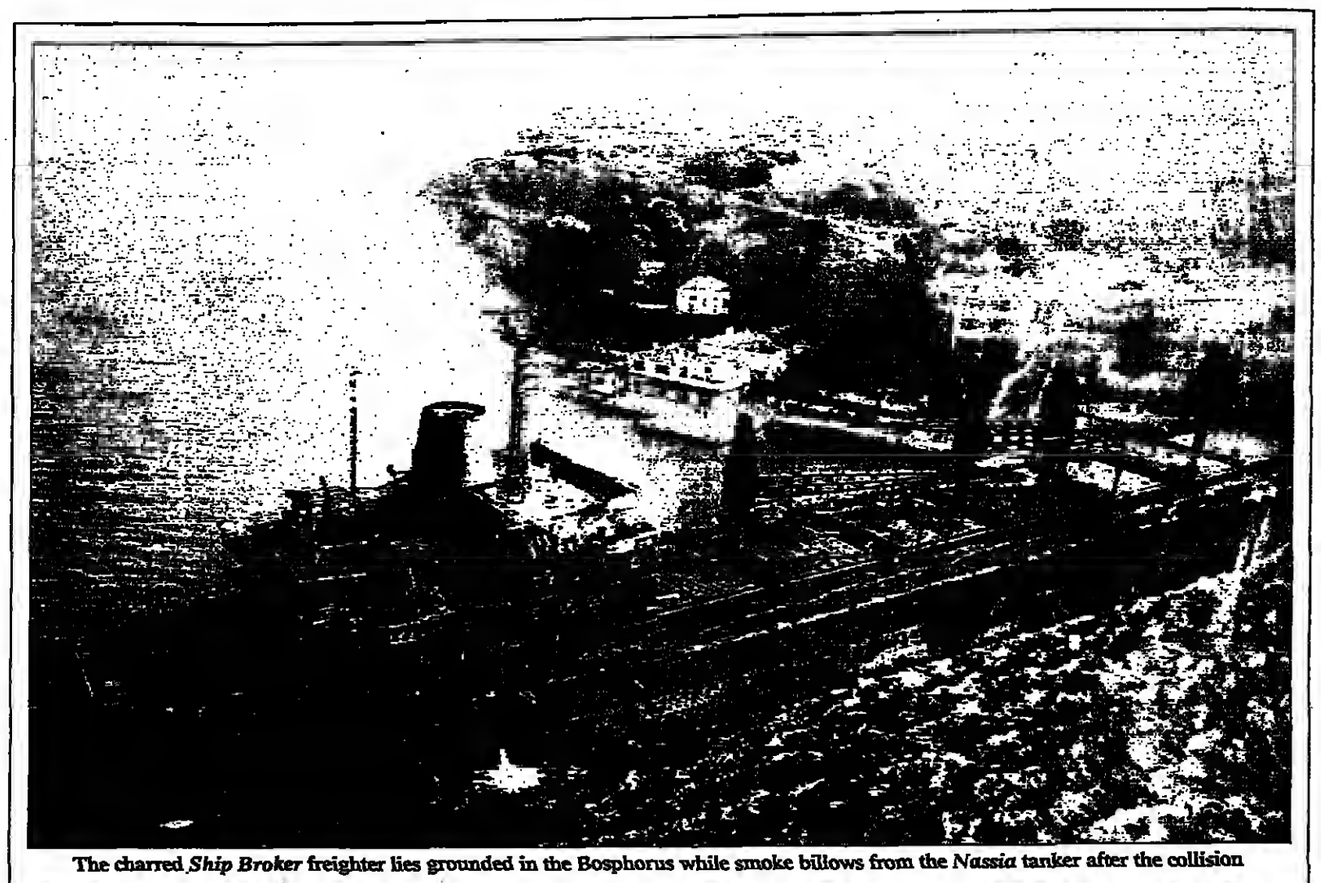
Disclosure of the operation was made by Professor Desmond Ball, of the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, at the Australian National University in Canberra.

The focus of attention was the Garden Island Naval Dockyard beside the Opera House. Professor Ball explained how Soviet agents intercepted phone calls between naval officers and defence headquarters in Canberra, allowing Soviet agents to monitor trials of the buoy by the naval facility south of Sydney.

Nuclear test ban extended

Nashua: President Clinton has told Congress that he is extending the American moratorium on nuclear testing for a further year, to September next year, a White House spokesman said yesterday.

Dee Dee Myers said the decision was based in part on the restraint other nuclear powers had shown in not resuming testing in response to a nuclear test by China last October. Mr Clinton had been under pressure from the Pentagon to resume testing, with the military arguing that it was the only way to measure the effectiveness of safety improvements made to the weapons. *(Reuter)*



The charred *Ship Broker* freighter lies grounded in the Bosphorus while smoke billows from the *Nassia* tanker after the collision

Salvage firm hopes to put out Bosphorus oil blaze today

Istanbul: Tugs towed a blazing oil tanker in the Bosphorus towards the Black Sea yesterday and salvage experts said the fire might be extinguished today, allowing one of the world's busiest waterways to reopen. Riza Akcali, the Turkish Environment Minister, said that the Cyprus-registered *Nassia* was being towed to Riva in the Black Sea, just east of the mouth of the Bosphorus. The strait, through which about 50,000 vessels pass each year, has been closed since the *Nassia* collided with the cargo vessel *Ship Broker* on Sunday night. At least 15 seamen were killed and 16 are missing, presumed victims of the fires that raged through both ships. The blaze on the *Ship Broker* was extinguished within two hours. Hayri Kozakcioglu, the Governor of Istanbul, said that the strait would reopen only after all danger to shipping and the city had been removed. The Dutch company contracted to salvage the *Nassia* with a Turkish partner said yesterday that it expected its 12-man team in Istanbul to put out the fire quickly and that it might be possible to save up to 85,000 tonnes of the *Nassia's* cargo of 98,500 tonnes of Russian crude. *(Reuter)*

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Suicide manual climbs Japan's best-seller list

FROM GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

THE success in Japan, where tradition has honoured harakiri as a noble ritual, of an illustrated guide to taking one's own life has considerably demystified the act.

Since publication in Tokyo last July, the *Complete Manual of Suicide* has sold 550,000 copies and recently became one of Japan's top-selling books. Its author, Wataru Tsurumi, 29, said the response from grateful readers was so overwhelming that he felt compelled to launch a sequel. The new book, published last month, features suggestions and advice from readers and has sold about 60,000 copies in four weeks.

The original work details a variety of methods for ending it all, ranging from the banal — such as leaping off high buildings, slashing one's wrists and jumping under trains — to the bizarre, such as freezing oneself and driving into quicksand. Alongside helpful diagrams, which detail everything from the correct timing to jump under a train to maps indicating routes to ideal suicide spots, the methods are rated with skull-and-crossbone symbols.

The ratings are based on criteria, including the level of pain, the amount of preparation, and the state in which the act leaves one's body. Hanging, in Mr Tsurumi's opinion, is one of the best ways — "comfortable, reliable and easy". Violent and messy exits are not recommended, although methods are detailed for self-immolation, slashing the wrists and leaping off cliffs and buildings.

Critics have protested that the manual could encourage people to act impulsively, and a women's group has demanded it be withdrawn from sale. One article has dubbed the author "Dr Death".

But Mr Tsurumi, who has no medical qualifications, maintains he is doing ordinary Japanese a service. "I'm not recommending that people commit suicide, but I'm saying suicide is not a bad thing and people can live life more positively if they know it is there as an alternative," he said in a recent interview. Besides, he said, the book is "so chilling it could even stop some from wanting to commit suicide". Although there were 22,104 suicides in Japan in 1992, there are no statistics available to show that the book has contributed to a rise in such deaths.

Princess Royal: concern

Princess says aid fills in for social services

BY MICHAEL BINYON

WESTERN aid agencies risk being used by some developing countries as alternatives to social services which they can no longer afford, according to the Princess Royal.

On her return from Vietnam, she said Hanoi appreciated the work done by Save the Children, of which she is president, and was probably picking its brains.

In an interview with BBC World Service Television, she said the danger was too much encouragement — "a slight tendency to feel that they [the agencies] might be used to prop up the lack of services. That, I think, might be a temptation, and aid agencies are going to have to make sure that they don't provide that as a sort of complete alternative to government".

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How to become a Proofreader

My name is Marian Thornley. I have been a freelance proofreader and copy-editor for 12 years, working for a number of major publishing houses. Two of my clients recently told me of the difficulty they experience in finding proofreaders. From my own experience and that of others in the business, I know that the use of freelances is increasing as publishers realise that for them this is cost-effective and efficient. As a result of that conversation, I decided to draw on my experience to produce a guide for people interested in this line of work. The benefits of freelancing include: being able to work from home with few overheads, earning between £12 and £20 per hour. This guide includes the following:

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Furious Clinton derides those bent on 'giving him hell' over Whitewater

Embattled President rounds on attackers

*As President Clinton struggles to retain his credibility, the Arkansas cronies he brought to Washington are proving a liability, **Martin Fletcher** writes*

President Clinton, after yet another day ruined by Whitewater, erupted in fury during a speech in Boston on Monday night, assailing the Republicans as a party "committed to a politics of personal destruction".

Red-faced and hammering the lectern with his fist, Mr Clinton protested that while America was crying out for constructive solutions to its problems, his Administration was confronted by "an opposition party that just stands up and says 'no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no' ".

Hours earlier Webster Hubbell had resigned as associate attorney-general, robbing Mr Clinton of an old friend and ally, completely eclipsing his appearance at an international jobs summit in Detroit, and deepening the disarray within his Administration.

Hillary Clinton, struggling to promote health-care reform in Denver, was meanwhile hounded by reporters interested only in Whitewater, and demonstrators carrying an enormous banner that asked, in dripping red letters, "What Did Vince Foster Know?"

New allegations — none proven — are now surfacing almost daily. *Money* magazine yesterday reported that the Clintons may have underpaid their 1980s' income taxes by many thousands of dollars. Republicans claim the government agency responsible for bankrupt savings and loan institutions tried to suppress its Midwest regional office's call for a criminal investigation of Madison Guaranty, the Little Rock savings and loan association at the heart of the Whitewater affair.

Another threat is the sudden reappearance in Little Rock of Susan McDougal, the former wife of James McDougal, Madison's owner and the Clintons' Whitewater business partner. The government's Small Business Administration allegedly gave Mrs McDougal a highly-improper $300,000 (£201,000) loan following pressure from Mr Clinton, and some of the money went into the Whitewater Development Corporation.

With fresh demands yesterday for congressional hearings and more White House and Treasury aides appearing before a Washington grand jury, there was no respite in sight. "There's a recognition that Whitewater is going to be a continued problem," conceded David Gergen, a senior presidential adviser.

Mr Clinton returned to the attack yesterday, denouncing "the people who are giving me hell in Washington". But while Mr Clinton blames the Republicans for his woes, the Washington establishment increasingly blames the inner circle of old cronies, mostly from Arkansas, which the Clintons as self-proclaimed "outsiders" brought to the capital last year. Turning on the "Arkansas mafia" in the same way that they turned on Jimmy Carter's Georgians, Washington veterans contend that these aides brought with them some highly unsavoury baggage but little political sophistication, and have been preoccupied with protecting Mr Clinton, not the presidency.

The departure of Mr Hubbell put these Friends of Bill and Hillary firmly back under the spotlight and reinforced the growing public impression of Little Rock in the 1980s as a city where leading politicians and businessmen connived for their mutual financial benefit. It emerged yesterday that he resigned just hours before Mrs Clinton's old Rose Law firm in Little Rock was to consider a formal complaint against him to the Arkansas Bar Association and a possible lawsuit. The firm believes Mr Hubbell, a former partner, overcharged the government and other clients, greatly inflated his expenses and cost the Rose firm $500,000 by accepting a case for his in-laws on a contingency basis, meaning that the firm received nothing when he lost the case.

The resignation of Mr Hubbell virtually completed the destruction of the legal team installed in Washington by Mrs Clinton. Her old mentor Bernard Nussbaum, the White House counsel, resigned under an ethical cloud last week. Vincent Foster, another of her former partners and Mr Nussbaum's deputy, died in an apparent suicide last July. The question now is who will go next. William Kennedy, a third former partner and associate White House counsel, has been accused of improprieties, has separated from his wife and is said to be very unhappy. Patsy Thomasson, another old Arkansas crony who directs the White House's Office of Administration, is under increasing scrutiny for her role in the surreptitious search of Mr Foster's office following his death. Thomas "Mack" McLarty, the President's Chief of Staff and childhood friend, and Bruce Lindsey, a senior adviser from Arkansas, are relatively safe but all are now tainted by the Arkansas connections that were until recently such an asset. The Clintons' Arkansas associates have "brought a cloud over the White House", declared Alfonse D'Amato, a Republican senator and a scourge of the Clintons. "The smelly aroma of Little Rock has now clouded the Justice Department and certainly tainted it, and has brought real problems to the credibility of the White House as well."

The high excitement of all those Arkansans who arrived to take Washington by storm last year has turned to bitterness. They have been replaced by the Washington insiders — David Gergen, Lloyd Cutler — they denounced. That is the only way Mr Clinton can maintain his credibility.

DAVID Gergen, above, one of President Clinton's most trusted advisers, is finding himself isolated in the White House and is probably ready to leave within a year (Wolfgang Münchau writes).

Mr Gergen, 51, a Republican brought in last summer as special counsellor to salvage Mr Clinton's image and improve his relations with the press and Congress, has been virtually sidelined on Whitewater and health care reform, the two key political issues at present.

The special counsellor is considered to be one of the few inside the White House with good links to the Congress and the media, and his departure would be viewed as a serious setback for the President.

Susan McDougal, a former Arkansas business partner of Bill and Hillary Clinton, being advised by Bobby McDaniel, her lawyer, at a Little Rock press conference. She said that the Whitewater investigation was politically motivated

Fascists' word law invoked to 'purify' city

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

NOSTALGIA for Fascism gripped Italy's election campaign yesterday as the Northern League banned foreign words in the city of Pavia and Alessandra Mussolini protested against environmentalists' plans to close the grandiose Il Duce avenue, which runs past Rome's archaeological treasures.

With 11 days to go before the general election, the Second World War dictator has returned to haunt Italians, who are increasingly polarised between the right-wing media tycoon, Silvio Berlusconi, and his neo-Fascist allies, and the Progressive Alliance, headed by the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), the former Communists. The apparent rise of extremism prompted the Pope to hold special prayers for Italy yesterday.

The main hope of the centrist Italian Popular Party (the former Christian Democrats) and the Pact for Italy, led by the electoral reform guru, Mario Segni, is that neither extreme will win an absolute majority, leaving the centre holding the balance of power.

In the ancient Lombardy city of Pavia, however, councillors from the devolutionist Northern League developed the traditional xenophobia of their leader, Umberto Bossi, by invoking a 1940 Fascist law technically still on the statute book that sought to safeguard the purity of Italian by forbidding the use of English, French or other foreign words. Businesses will no longer be able to call themselves pizza houses, supermarkets, sex shops or coiffeurs. Under the law the only language other than Italian permitted in shop names and street signs is Latin. "Our language is rich. Why not make use of its resources?" said Giovanni Rigoni, the deputy mayor.

But the decision was attacked by the left-wing press. *La Repubblica* declared: "Pavia returns to the laws of *Il Duce*." The chairman of Pavia's shopkeepers' association, Aldo Polisbotta, also protested vebemently. A leading sociologist, Professor Franco Ferrarotti, believes that a certain Fascist revival was inevitable following the defeat of postwar anti-Fascist parties in the Italian corruption scandal. "It is a sign of regression, a nostalgia for the good old days, for the purity of the language," he said. "It is a most pathetic idea."

Francesco Rutelli, the Green mayor of Rome, outraged neo-Fascists but delighted citizens and tourists by closing Mussolini's via dei Fori Imperiali to traffic last Sunday while military parades took place. Thousands took advantage of the traffic ban to wander around the Forum undisturbed by the roar of cars. The experiment, to be repeated every Sunday, encouraged Signor Rutelli to reconsider plans to destroy the avenue and create a huge architectural "Park of Fori" stretching from the Piazza Venezia to the fields of the Appian Way. "Every day we will try to restore more of the via dei Fori Imperiali to citizens," he declared. The prospect enraged the neo-Fascist MP and granddaughter of Il Duce, "The via dei Fori Imperiali represents the successful attempt of Fascism to leave its imprint on the cities," Signora Mussolini said. "This work represents the last frontier of Italian urban planning."

Professor Ferrarotti said: "The present-day hatred of corruption and all the present-day parties means in essence a defeat for anti-Fascism. The political climate is rejuvenating neo-Fascism."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Defectors bolster Mahathir

Kuala Lumpur: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, said yesterday that defections from a rival party have given his National Front coalition enough votes to take over the government of Sabah state.

At least eight state legislators have defected from the Sabah Unity Party, led by Datuk Dr Joseph Pairin Kitingan, the state's Christian Chief Minister, who had won a slim majority in polls last month. Among the defectors were his brother, Jeffrey Kitingan, and Joseph Kurup, the party secretary. *(AP)*

Hostage taken

Rio de Janeiro: Cardinal Aloisio Lorscheider, Archbishop of Fortaleza in northeast Brazil, was taken hostage in an inmates' rebellion while making a jail visit. *(Reuter)*

Minsk reform

Minsk: Belorussia replaced its Soviet-era constitution with a new charter calling for an elected president to head the Slav country. An election is expected in June. *(Reuter)*

Emotional exit

Tehran: Iran sacked a theatre manager and banned five actors after their embrace on stage in Tennessee Williams's *The Glass Menagerie* caused an uproar. *(Reuter)*

Food appeal

Zomba: President Banda of Malawi has appealed for international food aid to stave off hunger after poor rainfall in most of the country. *(AFP)*

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'Liberated' homeland hails ANC chief as hero

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN MMABATHO AND MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

AMID scenes of jubilation, Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, was hailed yesterday as a conquering hero in Mmabatho, the Bophuthatswana capital, as thousands of supporters carrying liberation banners took to the streets.

His visit came after a week of bloodshed and turmoil that started with demonstrations by students and civil servants and ended with the ousting of President Mangope. It was particularly significant because it was the first time that Mr Mandela and the ANC had been able to campaign in the homeland.

Buses, cars and taxis crammed with ANC supporters filled the streets, while members of the South African Defence Force patrolled in armoured vehicles. Dancing youths sang and gave clenched-fist salutes. "The people are very happy," said Danny Tlale, aged 28, a civil servant. "We feel liberated because Nelson Mandela is here and Mangope, the tyrant, has gone." At the massive Independent stadium, Mr Mandela addressed more than 30,000 jubilant supporters, some of whom had waited several hours to catch a glimpsed of their leader. With the Bophuthatswana national flag covered with ANC emblems and chants of "Down with Mangope" echoing around him, the ANC leader smiled and saluted the crowd from the back of a lorry. He was accompanied by members of the ANC executive, including Thabo Mbeki, his estranged wife, Winnie Mandela, and Popo Molefe, the regional candidate.

As the cheers reached a crescendo, Mr Mandela led the crowd in singing the ANC's liberation song *Nkosi Sikelel i'Afrika* (God bless Africa). He expressed his sympathy with the bereaved families of the 60 civilians who died, and congratulated his audience for overthrowing "the tyrant" so elections could take place.

"It was made possible because of the people's uprising," he declared to roars of approval. "It was not the South African government but the unity of the people of Bophuthatswana that brought these changes. Unity in society is something that is going to liberate us."

He also paid tribute to the security forces who stood up to President Mangope and condemned the Afrikaner Resistance Movement for invading the homeland. "They were given a lesson by the Bophuthatswana Defence Force," he said derisively. "It was a lesson they will not forget. They were chased out and humiliated. That is what is going to happen in future."

He urged his supporters to take part in voter education programmes and warned them not to intimidate members of the National Party. "Let the National Party canvass because they will expose themselves," he said. "We are an elephant and the National Party is a mouse. A mouse can never be a threat to an elephant."

In Natal, up to 27 people died in political violence yesterday. The Inkatha Freedom Party claimed that 20 were killed when a convoy of Inkatha supporters were ambushed by ANC gunmen near Empangeni. Fifteen attackers were killed when those ambushed returned fire, said Ed Tillett, an Inkatha spokesman. In another incident men in a red pick-up truck opened fired at commuters waiting at a series of bus stops. Six people were killed and at least seven were wounded.

In a thinly disguised warning to Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, Mr Mandela said that recent events in Mmabatho sent "strong warnings" to others who wanted to obstruct free political activity. Mr Mandela will be meeting King Goodwill Zwelithini, the Zulu monarch, soon to discuss the status of KwaZulu and the forthcoming elections.

Pretoria unfurls new flag

BY MICHAEL HAMLYN

THE emerging South Africa has finally got a new flag, pictured above. Appropriately, since it was picked by the Transitional Executive Council, it is only interim and may be changed by the new government after the elections next month.

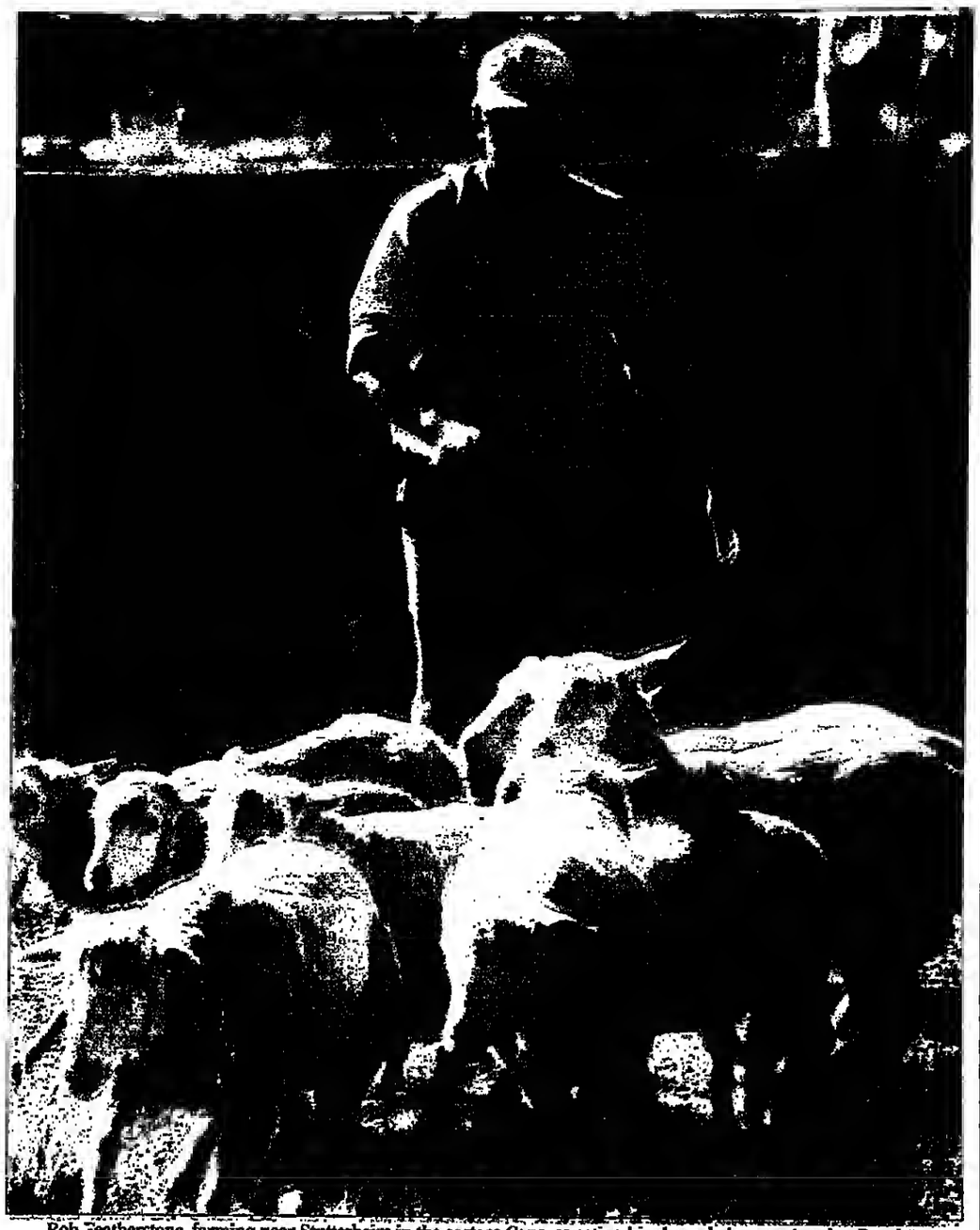
The old flag, with its Dutch bands of orange, white and blue, has become symbolic of the disintegrating apartheid order, even though when it was introduced it was an object of Afrikaner hatred and derision because it bears a miniature Union Jack alongside the flags of the two Boer republics of the Orange Free State and Transvaal. It has also been out of date for the past 33 years since South Africa became a republic and left the Commonwealth.

The new flag, selected from more than 7,000 designs, has six colours — red, blue, green, white, gold and black — and looks like a road fork. Cyril Ramaphosa, the secretary-general of the African National Congress, introducing the flag yesterday, claimed that most South Africans would be able to identify with the colours and design.

Militant blacks keep sights on farmers squeezed between bantustans

Whites ready to defend pastoral idyll

*On the second stop of his journey round South Africa, **Sam Kiley** encounters an anxious farmer at Stutterheim*



Rob Featherstone, farming near Stutterheim in the eastern Cape, counting his sheep; below, an Azanian People's Liberation Army soldier on guard in Umtata at the funeral of Sabelo Phama, its leader. (Photograph Simon Walker)

THE ground thumped to the sound of hundreds of feet stamping as hands clapped like rifle shots in unison. The honour guard of soldiers from the Azanian People's Liberation Army (Apla) led the bass chant: "Who deserves the bullet?" "The settler!" "Who's the enemy?" "The whites!" "Bullet" "Settler".

It is hard to imagine why anyone might want to put a bullet into Rob Featherstone, a white man farming just two hours' drive from where the Apla cadres were bidding farewell to Sabelo Phama, their former commander-in-chief, who was killed in a road accident in Tanzania.

Mr Featherstone, 42, an easygoing father of five, is fluent in Xhosa, popular with his staff, and devoted to the 4,700 acres of land on which he keeps 2,500 sheep and 340 cattle. He is a third-generation South African, whose ancestors arrived with the first of the English settlers in the 1820s.

Capability Brown would have loved the Border country, as this region is known, sandwiched between the bantustans of the Transkei and Ciskei. The rolling downland around Stutterheim is broken by clear brooks and reminds the English visitor of the shires. But beneath the natural order of the landscape lies a resentment against white farmers which smoulders like an ember beneath a powderkeg.

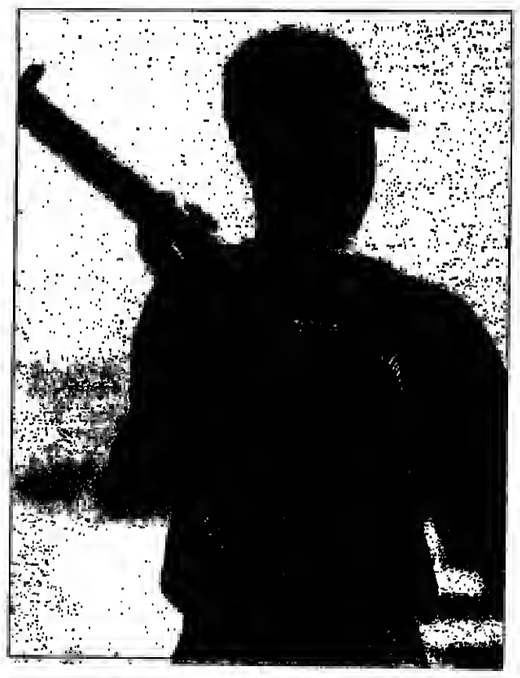
To preserve a way of life that he acknowledges has its roots in apartheid, which denied blacks the right to own land in white areas, Mr Featherstone is in the Amatola Kommando of army reservists. "I don't have many weapons. Just a rifle, a shotgun and a couple of pistols. That is not a preparation for a right-wing coup. It is for self-defence. All I want to do is farm in peace. I don't care who runs the country."

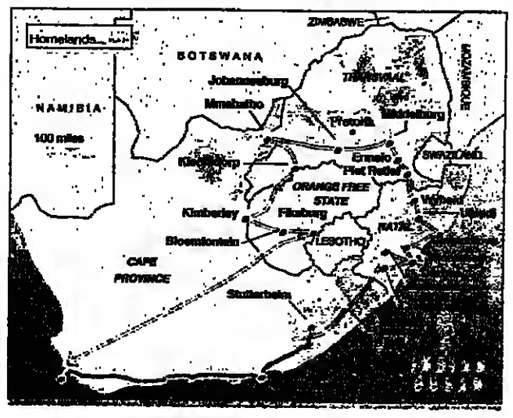
Violence against white farmers around Stutterheim has ebbed since Christmas, although one couple had been burnt out of their homes that day. Mr Featherstone's most serious losses have been three rustled sheep. But he fears he may lose much more after next month's elections in which the African National Congress is expected to win a comfortable victory. "They were communists, oow they say they're oot. They used to want to nationalise land. The land issue is the thorniest any new government will face," he said. The Pan Africanist Congress, the Apla political wing and the most radical party contesting the country's first all-race elections, has made it clear that it would nationalise all agricultural land. Three of Mr Featherstone's farming friends have died in Apla raids.

"We are terrified of another Mau Mau [the Kenyan anti-colonial uprising]. I hope to God it does not go that way, but it might because there seems to be no way of returning the land fairly.

"Why should I give it up? We have been here for three generations. The question of compensation is insane. I am a farmer, I need land for my children, not money. And where do you draw the line?"

Mr Featherstone said that land taken from black farmers after apartheid swung into full force from the late 1940s should be returned. "But if I am asked to leave, you can be damn sure that I will fight. These people [the black majority] deserve justice. But then so do I."





NEWS IN BRIEF

Pyongyang curbs task of nuclear inspectors

Vienna: Experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency were unable to carry out full inspections of North Korea's seven declared nuclear sites. "They were only partially able to fulfil their mission," a source at the United Nations nuclear safeguards agency confirmed.

The inspection visit was part of a deal between the United States and North Korea. America agreed to reopen high-level talks on improving ties in return for North Korea ending its year-long boycott of inspections by the agency. The inspectors found seals on nuclear material containers damaged, and were barred from one site where North Korea had previously authorised international scrutiny.

The West has long suspected that Pyongyang is developing a covert nuclear arms programme and US intelligence officials believe North Korea may already have a crude nuclear bomb. But the Communist state, with formidable armed forces poised on the world's most heavily defended front line, strenuously denies this. *(Reuter)*

Crew toll

Malindi: Rescuers plucked the bodies of seven US airmen from the sea off Kenya after their AC130 aircraft crashed en route to Somalia. One man was missing, but three waded to safety through a snake-infested lagoon. *(Reuter)*

Tourist drive

Abu Simbel: Egypt is to spend £28 million in promoting itself to try to win back tourists scared off by Muslim militants, and regain £536 million in lost revenue, Mamdouh Beltagi, the Minister for Tourism, said. *(Reuter)*

Death sentence

Peking: Shen Taifu, who organised a corrupt Chinese pyramid-selling group that defrauded investors of £75 million, has been sentenced to death and Li Xiaoshi, a former deputy minister involved in the scheme, has been imprisoned for 20 years. *(Reuter)*

Workers shot

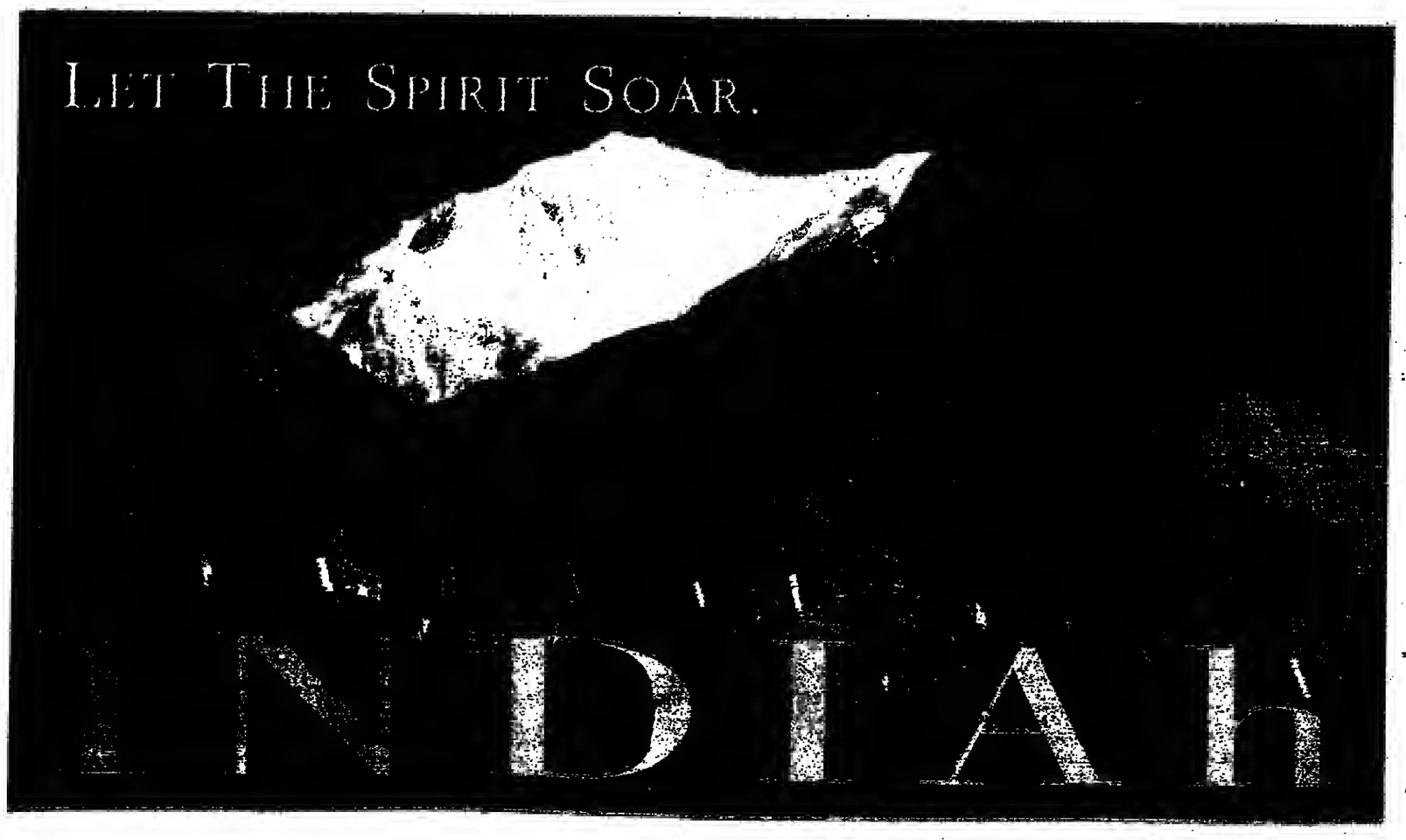
Santa Fe Springs: Tuan Nguyen, 29, who had been recently dismissed from a Californian electronics firm, returned and shot three former colleagues dead and wounded two others before killing himself, the Los Angeles county sheriff disclosed. *(AFP)*

Airline expands

Hanoi: Vietnam Airlines, the national carrier, announced plans for a £671 million fleet expansion and co-operative agreements with key US airlines including Delta, United and Continental. *(AP)*

Dog licence

Canberra: Australia has refused to ban the export of puppies to Hong Kong, saying claims of their mistreatment have been exaggerated. The RSPCA sought the ban, alleging that the owners did not know how to care for the dogs. *(Reuter)*



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Battle over votes will decide where power lies in Europe

FROM JAMES LANDALE IN BRUSSELS

THE dispute in Brussels yesterday over changes to the way the European Union decides policy revolves around a mere four votes in the Council of Ministers. Britain, and to some extent Spain, want to be able to block legislation with 23 votes. Everyone else wants the figure to increase to 27.

While this might seem like yet another of the arcane disputes that occasionally obsesses Brussels, it goes to the heart of a problem that was swept under the carpet by the Maastricht treaty and was not supposed to re-emerge until 1996, when an intergovernmental conference is planned to review the structure of European Union.

The problem is twofold: where should power lie when the Union of 12 members grows to 16, or even to 20 and more if and when the eastern European states join? And, consequently, what shape should the future Union take?

Britain's refusal to agree to changes in the voting system threatens enlargement and reopens wounds from Maastricht only partially healed. Divisions still exist between big and small states, between the rich north and the poor south, and between states such as Britain, concerned about sovereignty, those seeking a federal system.

The basis of qualified majority voting, under which most decisions are made, has not changed for more than 30 years. With each enlargement of the EC, and now the EU, a blocking minority has always required 30 per cent of the vote to veto legislation. This has never caused a problem because the number of members has remained small enough for decision-making to remain efficient. However, Britain wants the blocking minority to remain at 23 votes, while to the total number of votes will increase to 90. This reduces the proportion of votes needed to block measures from 30 per cent to 25 per cent. To most other EU members, this is unacceptable. They fear that making it easier to block legislation will paralyse decision-making. Britain wants to see the legislative process slowed because this would shift power from Brussels to member states.

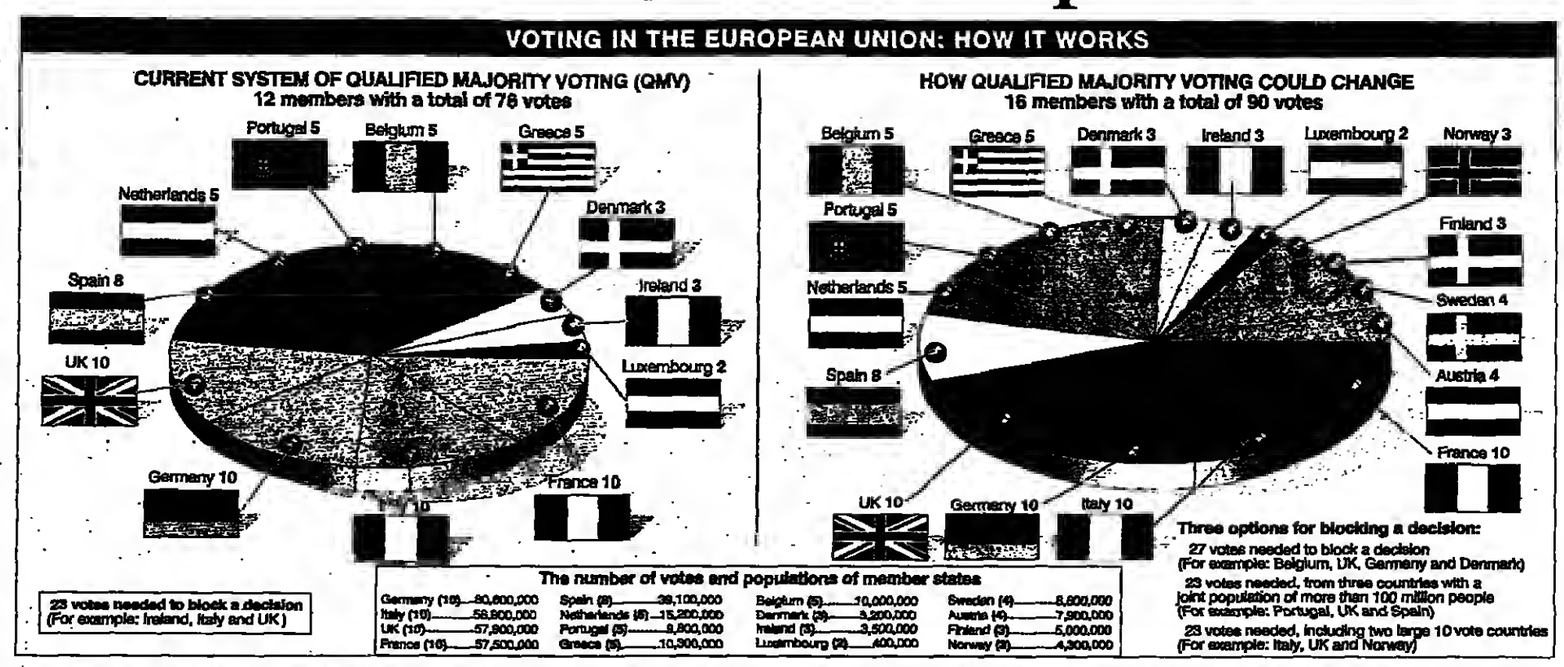
Diplomats in Brussels are baffled by Britain's line. On the one hand, it supports enlargement. On the other, it is prepared to endanger the whole process over the question of decision-making. The more federalist-minded member states feel that decision-making needs to be made easier so that the legislative difficulties that result from a larger, more unwieldy Union, can be overcome. This, in theory, could involve greater centralisation: the more undisciplined member states there are, the more powerful Brussels needs to be to keep them in order. However, the dispute is not just a question of legislative efficiency.

France said yesterday that the Union needed a new political doctrine and "common political will" if it was to welcome east European countries as members. Writing in *Le Figaro*, Alain Lamassoure, the French European Affairs Minister, said: "The Union needs working rules able to govern a large political entity made up of some 24 independent states." He also reiterated the need for a blocking minority to increase to 27 votes. "Our British friends now propose reducing this minority to 25 per cent, which in practice would paralyse the Council," he said.

Carlo Azeglio, the Italian Prime Minister, said a few days ago that the Union needed a complete overhaul. "A Union which already suffers from an overlarge Commission and excessive use of the unanimity rule with 12 members, risks grinding to a halt unless it can match the entry of new members by reforming and strengthening its own structures," he said.

These views are opposed not only by Britain but even by some of the potential new members. Last week, Vaclav Klaus, Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, was in Brussels. He said he envisaged a European Union that he hoped to join by 2000 as a free-trade area and not a political union. Jacques Delors, the European Commission President, who was sitting next to him at the time, looked somewhat perplexed.

Battle over veto, page 1



Karadzic's land offer falls short of demands

■ The offer by Bosnian Serbs to hand back some territory came amid increasing pressure on their leader by America and Russia to reach an overall settlement

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AN OFFER by Bosnian Serbs to relinquish 16 per cent of Bosnian territory falls far short of the amount demanded by President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and the Croat-Muslim federation.

The offer, which amounts to 22 per cent of Serb-controlled land, was announced by Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, as America and Russia increased pressure on him to join the search for an overall settlement.

Bosnian Serb forces control 72 per cent of Bosnia's land, but they would need to give up 32 per cent to satisfy the demand for 60 per cent made by the Bosnian President at the end of last week. Even if this is a bargaining starting-point and Mr Izetbegovic reduces his claims, he is almost certain to insist on the Serbs giving up 22-25 per cent, leaving them with just under 50 per cent.

Croats and Muslims are due to sign the American-sponsored plan for a federation in Washington on Friday, after ten days of talks which ended with agreement on a constitution, a federal government, a parliament and a decentralised system of cantons.

Dr Karadzic seemed to signal a severe stumbling block to Bosnian Serb agreement on a peace plan yesterday. "We are ready to give up some Serb territory for peace but certainly not a big amount," he said in Belgrade. "I think we will keep 56 to 57 per cent."

Although ceasefires have silenced the guns around Sarajevo and along Muslim and Croat front lines in central Bosnia, fighting continues in several places between Serb forces and Muslim-led Bosnian government troops. In Muslim enclaves such as Maglaj, Serb forces are trying to create land connections with Serb-held territory. They want to strengthen their position before any Bosnia-wide peace negotiations begin.

Baroness Chalker, the Overseas Development Minister, last night arrived in Bosnia for a three-day visit. The republic has received £160 million in aid from her ministry and Lady Chalker is to evaluate Britain's relief operations. She will stop today in the northern enclave of Tuzla, where United Nations peacekeeping troops recently took control of the military airport that has been closed to relief flights for most of the past two years.

It is Lady Chalker's third visit and she is due to meet British General Sir Michael Rose, the commander of UN troops in Bosnia, as well as relief workers helping Bosnian rape victims.

The incoming and outgoing UN commanders in the former Yugoslavia meanwhile called for a swifter military response to attacks on UN peacekeepers. Lieutenant-General Bertrand de Lapresle, who takes command today, and the departing General Jean Cot, expressed their concern a day after America and France said UN commanders were too slow to use force to protect French troops bombarded by Serbs besieging the enclave of Bihac. William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, said it took three hours for Yasushi Akashi, the UN civilian envoy in former Yugoslavia, to approve a request for Nato air support. The attack was over by then, he said.

Concern at the command structure came as officials expressed outrage at persistent Bosnian Serb refusal to give clearance for a food convoy to reach Maglaj. The last UN convoy reached the enclave in October.

A Royal Naval Air Squadron Sea King helicopter removing the Bofors light anti-aircraft gun from its Bosnian site and, below, a similar gun being operated by Canadian troops in England during the war

Vintage British gun is muzzled at last

FROM EDWARD GORMAN IN VITEZ

A British Second World War gun was found this week near the disputed central Bosnian town of Gornji Vakuf. British personnel with the UN forces removed it as part of the peace agreement between Muslim and Croat forces.

The Bofors 40mm anti-aircraft gun was made in 1942 and is marked with the Crown and GVI RI. It was discovered dug in at a position held by Bosnian Muslims. British soldiers who helped to remove it said that it might have been abandoned elsewhere or bought at a surplus sale; or it might have been supplied by London to Tito's forces resisting the German invaders.

The gun with its crown and identity markings

Russian TV bows to the nominally incorrect

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

IT TOOK the British many years and much irritation to call places in their former empire by new, post-independence names; the Russians seem to have given up the attempt after barely two years.

National television and radio have abandoned use of new national names in non-Russian areas in favour of their Russian variants. The change was demanded by announcers incapable of pronouncing, or spelling, names such as Kyrgyzstan. For Russians, it is now Kirgizia. Khalmg Tangch is again Kalmykia. The framers of the new rule insist it is "in no way connected to the problem of sovereignty and respect for national dignity".

The secretary of the Russian Language Institute of the Academy of Sciences, Dr Vladimir Pykhov, said: "No language can dictate to the Russian language its own pronunciation and spelling rules for proper names."

Nobody could call place names in this part of the world a matter of political indifference. Anyone doubting this should try using the (Russian) Lvov when among Ukrainians in Lviv, or Lviv when among Russians in Lvov.

Zhirinovsky faces revolt from within his party

BY ANATOL LIEVEN

VLADIMIR Zhirinovsky, the Russian neo-Fascist leader, is facing a rebellion within his Liberal Democratic Party, just as opposition to him is growing in the nationalist wing of Russian politics.

Viktor Kobelev, the former deputy leader of the party, announced this week the formation of a new parliamentary faction. Mr Kobelev left the party last month, accusing Mr Zhirinovsky of oppressive behaviour towards his colleagues and disgracing the party by his extreme statements and actions abroad. Mr Kobelev has alleged that he has material evidence about the party's financial affairs that would be damaging to Mr Zhirinovsky, who is now expected to face stiff opposition when the party holds its congress next month.

Mr Zhirinovsky's threats to launch nuclear attacks on Western countries and other statements have also reduced his credibility among Russian nationalists. They are now increasingly likely to throw their support behind Aleksandr Rutskoi, the former Vice-President, in his bid for President in elections scheduled for 1996.

Leading article, page 19

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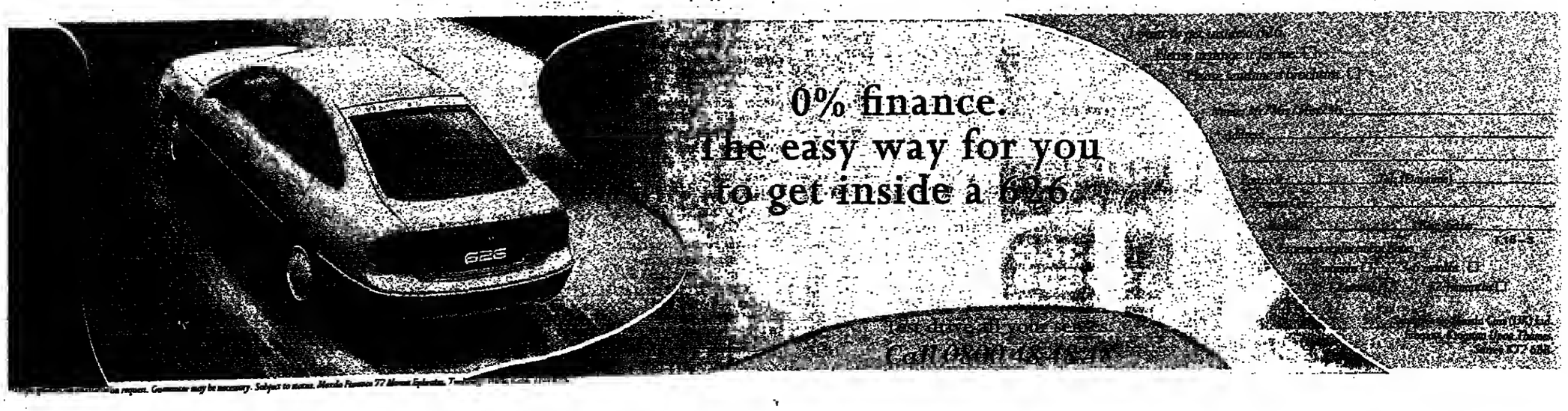

From dragon lady to pop heroine

How Yoko Ono, hated 'she-devil' and widow of John Lennon, won America's heart. **Ben Macintyre** reports

For nearly three decades Yoko Ono survived in a pocket of notoriety unique in the history of pop stardom: famous and wealthy, she was also heartily loathed by the general public for reasons buried deep in the mythology of the 1960s.

This month *New York Rock*, a new pop musical written by Ono, opens at a tiny non-profit theatre in Manhattan, heralding the unlikely renaissance of John Lennon's widow and a rehabilitation of the pop figure the world most loved to hate.

Comedians could always pick up a cheap, cruel laugh by attacking her. "If I found her floating in my pool, I'd punish my dog," Joan Rivers once snapped. But recently the American press, hitherto savage, has become respectful: "For the past two months, Yoko Ono has come out into the sunlight, quietly staging a comeback," observed *New York Magazine* this week.

At the age of 61, Ono has found some popularity to go with her long-established celebrity. She is being taken seriously. But why did the world despise her so?

Born in Tokyo to wealthy parents, Ono was portrayed as the "dragon lady" from the moment she met John Lennon in 1966. Their marriage (her third) was widely viewed as the catalyst which broke up the most famous pop group in history. From then on, Lennon collaborated only with his wife, earning her the immediate and profound hostility of the press and public.

Long before she linked up with Lennon, Ono was exploring the sort of experimental art far removed from the sounds of the Beatles.

One performance in 1962, for example, "Wall Piece for Orchestra", involved Ono kneeling down and repeatedly banging her head on the stage. She was accused of turning Lennon from a happy-go-lucky Scouse prodigy into a politically moralising prig.

Their avant-garde collaborations were derided. Ono herself admitted: "The inspiration that led to that music faded for us because every time we'd do anything like that in the studio the engineers would go to the toilet."

The couple's much-publicised artwork stunts, such as the "Amsterdam Bed-in", were roundly ridiculed, but Ono's

Yoko Ono: pop icon

looks, art, ideas and singing were singled out for special vitriol. "Her voice sounded like an eagle being goosed," wrote journalist Ralph Novak.

"The newspapers said: 'She's gone to his head'," sang Lennon. "The way things are going, they're gonna crucify me". In fact, they nailed Yoko Ono.

The critics claimed they were attacking her on aesthetic grounds, but behind the barrage was a livid streak of racism: nobody liked the sharp-tongued oriental woman hovering beneath the armpit of their beloved Beatle.

Lennon's murder on December 8, 1980, outside the Dakota building in New York, might have proved a turning point. America is traditionally kind to the bereaved. Instead, Ono was charged with playing the "professional" widow for profit.

She retreated to the top of the Dakota and became New York's Mrs Rochester, granting few interviews and holding the world away. She was seldom seen in public without body guards and a huge, daunting pair of dark glasses, which gave her the appearance of a small, malevolent . . . beetle.

When *Forbes Magazine* estimated her net worth at $150 million in 1982, her detractors accused her of opportunism. "A lot of that was conjured up by the press," she told *New York Magazine*. "It was safe to make me into a scapegoat."

Towards the end of the 1980s the mood began to mellow. In 1989 the Whitney Museum held a retrospective of her conceptual art and films; in 1992 she released *Onobox*, a six-CD set of her music. As the hysteria of Beatlemania and the trauma of Lennon's murder began to fade, critics looked anew at her relationship with the pop martyr.

A few argued that her role in transforming Lennon from a braggart and poseur into a committed political activist and ardent feminist simply helped to push him in a direction he was already going. Her marriage to and effect on Lennon was even hailed by some as one of her "greatest creative acts".

Last January she hugged Paul McCartney at a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame dinner for Lennon and gave her blessing to the proposed Beatles reunion. "The world suffered from them not being together," she said, as her ancient feud with the surviving Beatles petered out.

She has even granted a few interviews to the American press, emerging as a defensive, bruised and lonely woman, a far cry from the manipulative siren that was her accepted public image. Suddenly Yoko Ono seemed to want the world to like her and suddenly, it does.

New York Rock, which opens on March 30, is the redolent story of a guitar player (Bill) and a woman (Jill), whose love affair is destroyed by the violence of New York. The off-Broadway musical, with 33 of Ono's songs and a cast of just nine, is unlikely to prove a box-office hit but it has already received sympathetic previews.

The unpredictable arbiters of the fame business have chosen to transform John Lennon's widow from she-devil to venerated pop icon.

Margot Norman on how not to escape the beanpole syndrome

Ample proof of the slender truth

Dawn French, seated, recreating *Bathsheba at the Bath* in this month's *Tatler*, with Caitlin Moran in attendance. But the conventional beauty on the magazine's next page may appeal more. Photograph: John Swannell

Amo, amas, I love a lass/ As a cedar tall and slender" and, contrariwise, "O fat white woman whom nobody loves/ Why do you walk through the fields in gloves . . . / Missing so much and so much?". This sort of stuff is anathema to the ample Dawn French, who in this month's *Tatler* and *Esquire* exposes (*tastefully*, you understand) some creamy expanses of her personal landscape and challenges the fashion industry to pension off its human coat hangers and start showing us "the fleshy, soft, sensual luxury of a generous body". Like hers. That's what men really want to see but are afraid to ask for. Ra ra Rubens, and Bring Back the Baroque.

We're not fooled, are we? Flipping through these photographs and those of Roseanne Arnold, who draped herself over several pages of *Vanity Fair* the other day wearing lacy black underwear and a come-hither smile, we don't see the outlines of a siren for the Nineties. We see Ursula, the sinister and enveloping underwater witch of Disney's *Little Mermaid*. We see two large comediennes who, not satisfied with being loved through laughter across half the globe, insist on becoming sex symbols too. Insatiable types, these, and definitely alarming. Tell me I'm beautiful or I'll bash you.

What was that line from "Eskimo Nell"? "And when she grinned, it put the wind/ Up the other thirty-nine". Taunting men who dream of nestling into her kind of lusciousness but allow themselves to be bullied by the fashion pundits into walking out with beanpoles, Dawn French goes on about the sexiness of big women in a way that's downright threatening. "Don't be frightened of us, we won't eat you. Well, actually we will, but you'll enjoy it." Enough to send the average Englishman scuttling for cover, wouldn't you say?

The *Tatler* shoot has been kind to Miss French, lighting her softly and draping her authentically for a recreation of *Bathsheba at the Bath*, setting her in a context of baroque opulence peopled by other women of her dimensions doing tableaux of *The Last Judgement* and *The Toilet of Venus*. It's a fair attempt at adjusting the modern eye to an earlier concept of beauty. The *Esquire* people have been subversive, however. She is shown reclining in wisps of white muslin, ostensibly like an Ingres odalisque but with an unmistakeable undercurrent of beached whale. And on the next page there is an advertisement for watches that shows a 20th-century version of Botticelli's Venus, in wet swimsuit and long wet hair, being carried off by a fellow who might have modelled for a Graeco-Roman Adonis.

That, I'm afraid, is the image of desirability that will outlive this, er, cheeky attempt to revive the Rubenesque. It was the European ideal for centuries before the 17th, and I reckon we are more or less stuck with it. It is what every fat white woman and every anorexic alike sees when she approaches her looking-glass in rose-coloured spectacles, and I guess it is also what every European husband sees when he joins his wife in a darkened bedroom.

Even Rubens married a thin woman, you know. They are not to be taken too literally, these painters. Picasso's women may have been mountainous on canvas but that is not how they looked on the beach. Miss French might find it dispiriting to pick up a book on Picasso and confront all those photographs of lithe young creatures on their way up to his studio as models and mistresses.

She was wise, as she admits, to marry a Jamaican. Jamaicans and Polynesians, no doubt imprinted in infancy with images of the prevailing shape of local womanhood, like curves on a generous scale.

> ‘Painters shouldn't be taken literally. Rubens had a thin wife’

Does not all this leave us with a difficulty, though, over the portrayal of skinny models like Kate Moss as the perfect clothes-horse? Isn't she as distant from the ideal in the watch advertisement as Dawn French and Roseanne Arnold? Indeed she is, but that says less about the ideal than about inadequate fashion designers who have never quite got the hang of cutting and draping round curves. Unfortunately Balenciaga was not around to teach them, and anyway designers in these hard times need no excuse to save on fabric. Throw into the equation the fastidious young men who predominate in that *Absolutely Fabulous* milieu, the sort who cannot bear too much feminine reality, and you get models who are all straight lines.

Dawn French has made a short film on the big-is-beautiful theme, to be shown next month on *The South Bank Show*. Apparently it includes women like Jessye Norman (who once told a hotel porter who suggested she might find it easier to negotiate a revolving door sideways, "Man, I ain't got no sideways"), which is fair enough, but also Marilyn Monroe, which is definitely not.

I'm sure it doesn't include Natalie Wood, Britt Ekland, Joan Collins, Leslie Caron, Diane Keaton or Madonna either. I list these because they all happen to have been pursued, and caught, by that famous philanderer Warren Beatty who, whatever you think of the man, happens to conform pretty much to that enduring Adonis ideal. Good try, Dawn, but they're stubborn things, these stereotypes.

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Passing the Buck test

A Girl's Guide to Social Climbing — with Lady Bienvenida as the divine inspiration

NO MORE conclusive evidence exists of the fragility — some might say, the absurdity — of the British class system than the ease with which it can be infiltrated by scoundrels.

Lady Bienvenida Buck, whose very name is a confection, is the definitive scoundrelle for our times. Affecting to be a Lady of La Mancha (or was it Castille?), but, one suspects, actually from the back end of Baron's Court, she not only married Sir Antony Buck MP — thus acquiring a genuine title — but later conducted an affair with Air Marshal Sir Peter Harding, Chief of the Defence Staff, before betraying him, with a Judas kiss, to the *News of the World*.

No one saw through her. The men adored her, the women felt threatened by her. Her ruse, which now appears so transparent, worked like the charm it undoubtedly was.

For those predatory young women minded to follow the example of, well, whoever she is, there now follows A Girl's Guide to Social Climbing.

1. Try to be beautiful. The doctor's daughter who ripped off a national charity while masquerading as "Lady" Aberdour was rather plain,

Spanish? 32? Consultant?

but made up for it by assiduously pressing the right buttons on the class calculator. It is much easier to achieve your goal if you are a vivacious blonde oozing sex-appeal.

2. Dress the part. Bienvenida trod the Axminsters of Mayfair as though she was on the catwalk and called herself a "designer". Looking a million dollars makes the acquisition of a like sum from a vulnerable male less complicated.

3. Be mysterious. Be foreign. Pretend nothing that can easily be traced. A Spanish diplomat's wife spotted that Bienvenida, despite her accent, could not speak a word of that language. Do not claim to have attended Roedean. Too many of that school's Brighton Belles will run into you at parties and blow the gaffe. Instead, talk vaguely of a rich father. Argentina is good, or Venezuela. Suggest, perhaps, a family tragedy that now keeps you apart from those you loved.

4. Speak up. If you cannot manage a posh voice (and the upper-class accent is easily acquired), have a hint of the exotic foreigner about you.

5. Change your name. Bienvenida started as plain Bernadette, then became Francisca Perez, a fashion consultant, before adopting her present identity.

6. Locate a wealthy patron. Bienvenida had as her protector Iraqi businessman Jamal Izzet. Flatter him. Make yourself indispensable. Then, if you have decided not to seduce him, use him shamelessly to introduce you to his friends.

7. Be seen at the right places, wearing the right clothes in the right company. Show yourself off. A little thigh, a hint of lace, a girlish giggle. But an overlying haughtiness as well. Remember, you are not a bimbo.

8. Return favours owed (with someone else paying, of course). Organise a box at Ascot and the sort of supper parties, laden with the rich and titled, that will have your rivals' handbags snapping with envy. Have the men begging you to accompany them to lunch.

9. Stay young. When you hit 30, stop counting. Bienvenida claims 32 but could be 38.

10. Do not neglect the purpose of your deception. Select your victim, or victims, take them for everything they've got, then get on to your agent. After all, you have a business to run, and time is money.

Good luck.

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THE TIMES GREAT JAZZ COLLECTION TOKEN

When Nicholas Elliott ran MI6, espionage was a gentleman's pursuit. **Julia Llewellyn Smith** reports

Tinker, tailor, jester, spy

Nicholas Elliott loved his job. "It was a sort of club," he sighs fondly. "Such a high proportion of one's colleagues were friends and we called it a marriage bureau. I met my wife Elizabeth there. It was tremendous schoolboy stuff, lots of jokes and jollity."

Mr Elliott's jolly job was spying. The marriage bureau was MI6 where he spent 29 years, six of them as a director. He interrogated Philby in Beirut in 1963, just before he fled to Moscow. When Graham Greene was spying in Sierra Leone during the Second World War, Mr Elliott was despatched to visit him at the author's request, with a suitcase full of condoms. He was posted in Cairo, Ankara, Berne, Vienna and Beirut. These were the days when nobody cared what you knew, but who you knew.

"Today," he says cheerfully, "I wouldn't stand a chance at getting in." He would be hindered for a start by his degree, a third from Cambridge. "Today you would need a first or 2:1." In 1938, Mr Elliott paid off his debts with a win on the horses and had a chat with Sir Nevile Bland, a friend of his father, Sir Claude Elliott, a former Head Master and Provost of Eton. Sir Nevile had just been appointed minister at The Hague and asked the 21-year-old Nicholas to accompany him as an honorary attaché.

In The Hague, Sir Nevile's greatest friend, Sir Hugh Sinclair, or "C" as the head of MI6 is known, came to stay. Sir Hugh expressed a desire to taste blue curaçao and young Nicholas had to go with him to a bar. "After a couple of slugs he said 'give up this and come and spy for me'."

Clearing the smokescreen — Nicholas Elliott prefers to dwell on the droller angles of the world of spies and spycatchers, but he knows the deadly truths behind many contemporary mysteries

Recruitment is more rigorous now and Mr Elliott is not sorry. "I think it's much better the way it is now. I think we were greatly spoilt. The service is far more professional today."

All the same, he says, the men and women still conform to a certain mould. Ruthless? Calculating? Able to convert an ordinary cigarette lighter into a machine gun cum lie detector and microwave oven at the flick of a switch? "No, no. They are engaged in the kind of work where human relationships matter and therefore all of them are personalities in their own right. They all have great humanity and they all have a sense of humour."

All these certainly characterise Mr Elliott, a lean, toothy, laughing man with only a state-of-the-art hearing aid to betray the fact that he is 77. He lives in London, with Elizabeth, and still works as a consultant, flying around the world and indulging in long, gossipy lunches with friends like Tiny Rowland, who has remained a chum since his days as a director of Lonrho. His son is a Buddhist film maker, who lives in Colorado; his daughter, Claudia, died of cancer. Despite this tragedy he says his has been a "fortunate life".

Much of this fortune is documented in two books, of which the second, *With My Little Eye*, was published last year. The first, *Never Judge a Man by his Umbrella* (the punchline is "It might not be his"), was published in 1991. This won attention not so much for its content, mainly anodyne family reminiscences but for its omissions — notably, under Foreign Office instructions, all references to MI6.

Mr Elliott could not write about his work, although his dealings with Philby had been well documented in the press. "I told the chaps in Whitehall 'This is absurd, everyone knows who I am'." He dissolves into helpless giggles.

In *With My Little Eye* he has been allowed to be more frank, allowing him to debunk the myths about Philby. Allegations that the traitor was tipped off by Sir Roger Hollis, the head of MI5, are "nonsense", he says.

Comparisons spring to mind between Mr Elliott and Peter Wright, a former assistant director to MI5, whose *Spycatcher* memoirs had to be published from Australia and were a paranoid whinge, full of allegations and insinuations. Mr Elliott's book, however, is a convivial panegyric to the Secret Service. No wonder MI6 are still "madly friendly".

Mr Elliott is all for secrecy when it comes to the names of agents or techniques used. "The problem is, we don't officially exist. When I started I was paid in five pound notes — in the eyes of the Inland Revenue I was a non-person. That was wonderful but it means that you can't defend yourself. Things go wrong and the press has a field day and nobody can stand up for the poor old office."

So what have been the office's triumphs? Mr Elliott lists three: the recruitment of Oleg Penkovsky from the Russians, days before Kennedy and Khruschev met over the Cuban missiles.

"It meant Khruschev knew that Kennedy knew America had the nuclear edge"; the second is the defection of his friend Oleg Gordievsky, the head of the KGB in London. "He could tell us exactly who was clean and who wasn't."

The third was the Secret Service's work in the Gulf War. "Do you remember all those bomb warnings prior to the Iraqi attack? Americans were in a terrible panic, businesses were refusing to fly people anywhere. Nothing ever happened. What occurred was the boys had pinpointed the terrorists by a variety of secret methods, so when they scattered to do their worst they could tip off the secret services."

This is the serious side of the service, which more than justifies its existence. Mr Elliott prefers to dwell on the droller angles. He tells a marvellous story about a Japanese male attaché photographed in an orgy with "Girls, boys, goats — everything". "They showed him the photographs and he asked for ten copies to show to his friends."

Has he ever been in danger? "Well, not that I know of." He starts to talk about people who infiltrate the IRA. "That is very dangerous. In order to maintain that position they have to go along with orders, so they may have to commit some crime. I think it's a very difficult target, because terrorists are sent over in these small units from Belfast or Dublin with authority to get on with it, but with no communication to intercept. Unless the agent has an Irish connection it would be very tricky." His non-existent eyebrows shoot up behind square-rimmed glasses.

It is at moments like these you realise that for all the laughter, the wit, the diversions, Mr Elliott knows the truth about the kind of things we see in the movies. When we shudder at news of a bombing, a drugs ring, a new dictator, he knows what is being done about it. But he has the good sense to realise that if you regale the public with a string of quirky anecdotes, they will be satisfied enough not to prod beneath the surface.

He chuckles at the memory of his old friend the American writer and broadcaster Miles Copeland. "Miles always said 'You can provide me with any secret, provided it has no entertainment value'."

Mum's the word in a secret world

A CONVERSATION between Nicholas Elliott and a security officer in 1945:

Security Officer: "Sit down I'd like to have a frank talk."
NE: "*As you wish, Colonel.*"
SO: "Does your wife know what you do."
NE: "*Yes.*"
SO: "How did that come about?"
NE: "*She was my secretary for two years and I think the penny dropped.*"
SO: "Quite so. What about your mother?"
NE: "*She thinks I'm in something called the SIS which she believes stands for Secret Intelligence Service.*"
SO: "Good God! How did she come to know that?"
NE: "*A member of the War Cabinet told her at a cocktail party.*"
SO: Who was he?
NE: "*I'd prefer not to say.*
SO: "Then what about your father?"
NE: "*He thinks I'm a spy.*"
SO: "Why should he think you're a spy?"
NE: "*Because the Chief told him in the bar at Whites.*"

● Taken from *With My Little Eye* (Michael Russell £12.95). *Never Judge a Man by his Umbrella* (Michael Russell £14.95)

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THE TIMES

Alan Coren

■ Broaden the mind in three glamorous ways — but be quick about it

Breathes there a soul among you who did not dream in the days when you still dreamt, of how it might be to ride the transcontinental rails aboard the Orient Express? All that glowing burr walnut, all that shin-deep Wilton, all that creamy crested bed-linen, all those shimmering crystal sconces tinkling you to sleep beside some moonlit Eyetie lake, and all those buffed brass fittings winking you gently awake again as they caught the new sun vaulting some frosted Alp?

And, far dreamier yet, all that romance, all that glamorous intrigue! For you had read your Greene and your Christie and your E. Phillips Oppenheim, had you not, and you knew how short the odds were against your door's bursting open somewhere east of Paris to allow a sloe-eyed nymph to hurl herself whimpering upon your bed, begging sanctuary from the fiend (almost certainly called Vargas) currently clumping down the corridor towards you, cocking his Mauser as he clumps. But, even as you wrap the belt around your fist and prepare to sell your manhood dear, you spot that all, perhaps, may not be quite as it seems: for what is this that has just dislodged itself from her heaving cleavage, if not the missing blueprint of the revolutionary new Potts-Wilkinson torpedo? Oh yes, much may yet come to pass, ere you fetch up against the Stamboul buffer!

Or, alternatively, Pier 88. For that was another dream, was it not? The great Cunarder nosing down Southampton Water, the White Star Company's brass bandsmen gamely belting out *Now is the Hour* as they slowly disappear beneath the streamer blizzard, and, why, whose is this elbow brushing yours on the departing taffrail but a ravishing Rank starlet's off with the rest of her incomparable body to fame and fortune in America! Is she weeping at leaving behind that nice young Pinewood focus-puller whom fame and fortune might, willy-nilly, compel her to outgrow? Yes, she is, and just enough to require you to whip the hankie from your top pocket and proffer it for dabbing, whereupon she cries, "Blimey, that's never real silk, is it, ooh, I couldn't!", until she is reassured that you have a dozen more in your cabin, perhaps she would care to inspect them over a firkin of chilled Bolly, and there you are, five blissful days of shuffleboard, lotto, foxtrot, and careless rapture on the rolling Atlantic, before Manhattan rises from it as only Manhattan can, and are you mistaken or is that Jay Gatsby's chauffeur waiting on the pier to whisk you off to West Egg in the yellow Roller?

And wasn't there a third, if slightly later, dream, when planes joined boats and trains upon the magic roundabout? When, that is, the first Concorde took off to outsprint the sun, and the rich and famous left Heathrow at lunchtime and touched down at Kennedy for breakfast, and the dreamer stood beneath, shading his eyes and thinking there was no more glamorous thing off earth?

Yes, all right, very well, you wish to know where all this tarradiddle is leading, and you shall not be cheated. It is leading to Acton. For it is there, on the premises of an enterprise entitled Superlative Travel, that all these dreams of yours have come home to roost. Together. Because Superlative Travel have brought it to my attention that they are in a position to give us not only the Orient Express, not only the QE2, not only Concorde, but all three. Here's what you do: you slip them £1,299, you hop on the Orient Express at Victoria, and you hop off it again at Southampton, where you hop on to the QE2 to Majorca until it is time to hop back off it and on to the Concorde to Heathrow, and there it is, all done and dusted, in four days flat. Magic. You need never dream again.

Unless, of course, you feel there might be a small price to pay over and above the £1,299. For what are the odds against something sloe-eyed and politically iffy interfering with you on the Southampton run? How major a romance may be conducted while queueing for castanets at the Palma duty-free? And do you really dream only of taking off as Spain is pouring its tea out and landing as England is warming its pot?

But then again, maybe this is as superlative as travel ever gets, now.

A blackmailer's charter

Public figures such as Sir Peter Harding should resist the humbug about security and tabloids pressure, and keep their jobs

Simon Jenkins

I have a punishment for Sir Peter Harding in the matter of Bienvenida Perez-Blanco. His resignation should be refused and he should be forced to stay as Chief of the Defence Staff. His boss, Malcolm Rifkind, has declared "total confidence in his professional abilities". He enjoys the respect of his colleagues and the eulogistic support of *The Daily Telegraph*. He has a job to do and is in the middle of doing it. By remaining at his post, he would emphasise the separation of public from private life and challenge the tabloid *agents provocateurs* as dictators of who shall or shall not remain in public office.

As it is, his Sunday resignation reveals . . . what? That Sir Peter is variously a "bloody fool", a "hypocrite", a "reckless lover", a "warrior felled by the gutter press", a "soldier of great distinction" and a "gentleman of the old school". These epithets culled from the past two days are mere babble. Whenever the English peer into the more exotic reaches of human emotion, said D.H. Lawrence rightly, they become a "snivelling, dribbling, dithering, palsied, pulse-less lot". Here is a man suddenly taken out of line and shot, as an example to others. We deplore but excuse the executioner, and shrug.

As an example to others, Sir Peter Harding should not have resigned. David Mellor should not have resigned, also as an example to others. Nor should Cecil Parkinson, nor should Tim Yeo, nor should Hartley Booth, nor should any public figure whose private life has no bearing on his public duty. By resigning, these men set a dangerous example. They acquiesce in the idea that there is no boundary between work and home. They appear to accept that the press rather than they and their colleagues are the best judges of when domestic difficulties render them unfit for work. By caving in to tabloid intrusion, they invite further intrusion and give the press an incentive to offer huge rewards to those with information to offer.

The competitiveness of the tabloids is now driving this market into a frenzy. There is nothing new in penny dreadfuls persecuting public figures. Trollope built an entire novel round Phineas Finn's troubles with Quintus Slide. What is new is the price. The price is fixed by evidence that revelation hurts, that newspapers can get people sacked by merely raising a hue and cry. The viper bites and the poison takes. The possibility of a spectacular resignation creates a market for further revelation. Public figures become marked men with prices on their heads. For Mr Mellor it was reputedly £50,000. For a Chief of the Defence Staff, the price was even higher. That is new.

In Washington, Bill Clinton is able to weather rumours about his sex life, as were Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. Sexual promiscuity is widespread in American politics, and Mr Clinton is not resigning because of his. A few women, and some men, have made money from their disclosures, but the stories are becoming tedious and the President ignores them. The victim will not admit defeat. The market in sexual allegation is bust.

Money is a different matter. In most democracies, money is the commonest lubricant of scandal. Probity in private business affairs is relevant to probity in public office, such are the opportunities for corruption. Hence Mr Clinton's discomfiture over the Whitewater affair. In Britain, by contrast, nobody goes into politics to become rich. Most MPs become richer by leaving it. The financial affairs of politicians are (mostly) above board, thanks to the register of interests and the librarians at Companies House. Money is a blunt weapon with which to assail Britain's rulers.

So we must make do with the aphrodisiac of power. Sex is the great leveller. Sexual misdemeanour afflicts the high and the low alike, and how delicious when it afflicts the high. Blackmailers have found a rich seam in its intimacies and privacies. Sexual success plays on human envy as powerfully as money does. "Whenever a friend succeeds, a little something in me dies," said Gore Vidal. But when the friend fails? Do his colleagues not feel the tiniest lifting of the spirit? "Not me this time, thank God . . . Poor old Peter, how unwise . . . How unfair . . . But life must go on . . . I do believe there's an empty chair to fill." And we have the cheek to borrow a German word for this so English response: *Schadenfreude*.

I mention no names, no pack drill, but for half the Cabinet and Parliament there must be somebody out there guarding a marketable secret about their past or present lives. These secrets may be career-threatening, humiliating or merely funny. They may be nothing more sensational than a fetish for silk underwear or a love of wild orchids. They are kept secret out of loyalty, or decency, or fear of retribution. They are marked private and personal. They are irrelevant to public office. Disclosure would cause pain disproportionate to any crime and to any good it might achieve.

So what is gained? Any publicity agent or editor with a sufficiently warped mind can concoct a "security risk" to justify intrusion into the sex life of a public figure. Until recently, extra-marital sex by an MP triggered the Pavlovian "possible target for KGB blackmail". Greater ingenuity is now required. The Mellor intrusion was justified on the ludicrous grounds that he was "too tired" to write his Commons speeches. The peeping Toms at Highgrove were to "show how easy an assassination target" the Prince of Wales might be. The transcripts of the Princess of Wales's phone calls showed "the weakness of royal security". Such is the great British humbug.

The Chief of the Defence Staff's affair with the wife of a former Tory MP "had security implications". Really? If putative blackmail justifies dragging every past or present liaison into the public domain, where do we stop? The huge sums now offered for kiss-and-tell memoirs must be testing the consciences of many dormant confidantes. This could pay off the mortgage. This could settle the house in Provence. Tabloid newspapers may be the sewers, but the informers are the sewage. The sluice-gates are opening because of the propensity of public figures to resign under pressure.

The private lives of busy people rarely gleam in the full light of day. Scratch and something worth selling will always be found. They have, or have had, love affairs. So what? Are they also to be held accountable for abusing their wives, making their children delinquent, impoverishing their families, mourning when bereaved? All are private matters that "might affect their public duties", might even "have security implications". Such accountability is crass. I doubt if there was ever an age in which marital fidelity was treated as a *sine qua non* of public office. As for the media hypocrisy about "not getting caught", who is doing the catching?

Either this is a serious matter, or it is a joke. When I go into the polling booth I am seeking a competent politician, not a competent spouse. We have enough trouble holding politicians to their public pledges without demanding an account of their private ones also. We leave sex out of it then. Why cannot we leave sex out of it now?

The simplest antidote remains that so often misquoted from the Duke of Wellington. He did not say "Publish and be damned" to Harriet Walters. I am sure that richest of all *grandes horizontales* would never have blackmailed so noble a client. The Duke supposedly wrote the phrase across a blackmail letter from her publisher, who held her memoirs.

Such a dismissive reply was perhaps easier for the Duke of Wellington than for a humble politician nervous for his reputation. But the principle is the same today. The market for salacious gossip will only collapse when its intended victims refuse to play. Selling to the tabloids is not blackmail, but has a more lethal effect. It both raises money and ruins the victim. And the defence is the same as with blackmail, to confront the exposure and not concede the price expected, which is resignation.

Had he stayed, I am sure Sir Peter would have found his position hard. He would have faced a fierce if brief media barrage. He would have endured the smirks of other ranks. He would have had, as the saying goes, to work at his marriage. But he is tough and effective. And the battle is surely worth winning, to wreck the nastiest game in town.

Instead we all watch spellbound. Who is next to be dragged out and shot?

Is birth ever natural?

Janet Daley says sex selection need not be feared

Suddenly we find ourselves able to choose whether an unborn baby will be male or female, if not with absolute certainty then with a disconcertingly high degree of accuracy. The London Gender Clinic this week claimed to have helped a couple with two sons to produce a daughter. Why are we disconcerted? Is this not what, by superstition or myth, we have always wished to contrive? Now that the technology has arrived, why are we trembling with metaphysical anxiety?

Most of the distress seems to revolve around the idea that this is a step too far along the road to playing God. All medical intervention may be unnatural in that it alters the outcome of what would otherwise have been ordained — if indeed these things are ordained — but experiments with conception and birth seem to be engaging in something more awesome. The practical dangers of overproducing boys seem the least of the worries. Medicine interferes with demography all the time by enabling more people to live longer than they would otherwise do, and we are not nearly so traumatised by that. Acting to prevent a death which would otherwise have "naturally" occurred seems to be acceptable, not only because it is humane (at least in most cases) but because it does not usurp the creative function of nature, which is absolutely sacrosanct.

How rational — or even moral — is this view? Death is as much a part of nature as birth: to take it upon oneself to prevent it seems no less a species of arrogance — as much a flouting of natural law, if you like — than producing life "artificially". The important psychological difference may be that when we prevent death in a person who is now alive, we are preserving the status quo. We are not bringing forth (or tampering with) that which would not have existed but for our will.

But why should the deliberate choosing of a child's sex have such a ring of Faustian omnipotence about it? We obviously still feel that the fact of being male or female is so profoundly defining of a person's identity, that the ability to decide it for someone else is a terrifying kind of power. Even in our supposedly egalitarian society, where there are far fewer differences in lifestyle or personal freedom between the sexes than in most others, this issue of deciding what sex a child will be still appears to be earth-shaking. Almost more so than deciding whether it is handicapped or able-bodied, which, when you think of it, is probably of greater significance to a future life.

There is clearly something of primeval significance here: we suspect, on some level below any conscious social sophistication, that the balance between men and women is too great a matter for human whim to alter. Politicians who see their role as expressing popular discontent make horrified comments. Tory MP David Amess is quoted as saying "Commercial exploitation of the desire of parents to have a child of a particular sex is grubby beyond belief." Exploitation? Grubby? What kind of talk is this from a free-market Conservative?

What Mr Amess presumably means is that it is distasteful to inject consumerism into the business of child-bearing. Being able to specify your child's sex in advance leads to nightmare visions of ordering babies with detailed specifications, like cars with automatic transmission or leather upholstery. There is one clear and indisputable objection to the idea of paying for a baby of the right sex, or IQ or hair colour: it suggests that the baby is being produced in the parents' interests rather than in its own. This is what rightly underpins the unease about "designer babies": the notion that children should not be supplied to suit parents' desires.

Yet, of course, people produce children in the old fashioned way for disreputable or selfish reasons: to push someone into marriage or to repair a failing one, or just to enhance their own self-esteem. Are these unedifying inclinations made worse when they are helped by science (or by a service which is for sale)? Maybe they are, but those who argue this way must ask themselves whether any interference with conception — even by abstaining from sex — is not an imposition of human will on nature.

Some of the most taxing dilemmas (and the most contradictory arguments) arise with inherited illnesses such as haemophilia, which only afflicts boys. The usual medical solution now is to offer terminations to women who carry the gene for haemophilia when (by the use of yet another medical intervention, amniocentesis) they are discovered to be carrying a male foetus.

Is abortion more morally acceptable than "god-like" tampering with conception in the first place? Is it somehow less emotionally unsettling to end a potential life than to create a new one? Perhaps so. Ending lives, after all, is something that people do all the time. It may be criminal or wicked but it is not outside the bounds of human experience. That is, it does not extend the boundaries of human power. None of which makes the problem for hardline non-interventionists any easier.

Would they argue that haemophilia gene-carriers should refrain from having children altogether? Or just that they should be prepared to cope with the consequences — and the guilt — of inflicting illness on someone else in the name of God's will or nature's plan? Science is not, after all, the only form of arrogance.

An eye on St Paul's

THE Prince of Wales's newfound enthusiasm for modern architecture, so eloquently expressed in today's launch issue of *Perspectives* magazine, is to be sorely tested by plans for a new building within spitting distance of his beloved St Paul's Cathedral.

A monument to modern design by one of Britain's leading architects, Sir Norman Foster, is planned for the Holborn Circus site which until recently was the distinctly carbuncular home of the *Daily Mirror*. The good news for the Prince, according to a property source, is that "the new building will not be as tall as the 14-storey Mirror building". The bad news for our hitherto classically-inclined Prince is that "it will be very dramatic with lots of curved glass and clean lines".

The Prince is certain to express strong interest in the scheme, just as he has in previous plans for architectural development around St Paul's. City planners admit that the site is sensitive: "The building there at the moment goes straight through the St Paul's sight-line. Any new scheme will have to be lower."

The project is still at an early stage but few tears are likely to be shed for the ugly edifice that Foster's scheme may replace. The *Daily Mirror* columnist Marje Proops, now ensconsed in Canary Wharf, worked there from the day the building was opened more than 30 years ago. "When I left, I did feel a twinge of nostalgia, but it's just a building after all — and a pretty crummy building at that. It was shabby and rather smelly."

● *With relations between John Patten and his Labour shadow, Ann Taylor, at an all-time low, Taylor is complaining about his department's national campaign entitled "Better Information for Better Education". The ruler used in the advertisements, she says, portrays "ten inches as the equivalent of 24.5 cm rather than the correct measurement of 25.4 cm". Just goes to show, she suggests, that Patten doesn't measure up.*

Loyal silence

A TOUCHING reluctance to embarrass his leader seems to have afflicted Norman Lamont. The former Chancellor has unexpectedly backed out of a speech later this month that would have clashed directly with John Major's big day at the Conservative Central Council in Plymouth. The hitherto ungaggable Lamont had been due in Newcastle that day to address the Northern Young Conservatives' anniversary dinner. But no longer.

Chris Morgan, who takes over as Northern YCs' chairman today, says a Lamont aide began asking curious questions. "He wanted to know which networks we had asked to the dinner, and asked if we knew that it clashed with Major's big speech. Then he suddenly cancelled, landing us right in it." Central Office offered them William Hague, the social security minister, as a substitute. "He might not have the pulling power," admits Morgan, "but he'll probably make a better speech."

● *Paddy Ashdown looked fighting fit as he leapt onto the platform to address the Lib Dems' spring conference in Cardiff at the weekend. But his Action Man mantle may be slipping. A Conservative whip, Andrew MacKay, has beaten the former commando hollow in recent fitness tests carried out in Westminster's gym. Modestly, MacKay comments: "It shows that two years in the whips' office knocks you into shape."*

In a storm

A SWAGGER is back in the step of the commander of our chaps in the Gulf, Sir Peter de la Billière. "Yes, I'm enjoying civilian life very much," says a chipper de la Billière. "Particularly this week: I've just delivered the manuscript of my autobiography."

Completing the tome, *Looking for Trouble*, which covers a military career spanning Korea to Desert Storm, is, he admits, a great relief. "Writing does not come easily to me, but I did have some good professional help."

De la Billière joined the likes of *Tornado Down* author John Peters at the Imperial War Museum in London for the launch of Laurie Milner's new book *Royal Scots in the Gulf*. Milner, usually an unassuming member of the museum's research staff, had to display his own heroics during the course of research. He recalls an invitation to a Royal Scots' mess night, complete with reels. "It was a ladies' night, but when it came to the reeling we appeared to be one or two short, so it was a case of some of us getting our jackets off."

But some evenings are simply lost forever, he admits. "I have a very vague memory of an evening that involved a huge amount of duty-free port. It was dubbed the Mother of all Bottles."

Cloud Nine

BRITISH AIRWAYS executives may have been on the guest-list, but they were conspicuously absent from the London launch of *Dirty Tricks: British Airways' Secret War Against Virgin Atlantic*, by the journalist Martyn Gregory, in London on Monday. But very much in evidence were Virgin boss, Richard Branson, and Harry Goodman, chairman of the now defunct International Leisure Group.

Goodman believes the book could help in his own legal action against BA. "It has given rise to other evidence. The writ will be served in a wider form." The question is when? For although writs against BA and its top managers, including Lord King, have been issued, they have not yet been served by Goodman's lawyers. So were they secretly hoping that a few BA stalwarts might brave the fray, enabling them to do the deed in public?

Next in line

NOW that Earl Spencer's lineage is secured with the birth of a son (visited yesterday by his aunt, the Princess of Wales), the focus can return to the more vexed question of the Moynihan Barony.

The Hon Colin Moynihan's challenge to other claimants to the title — most notably Daniel, the three-year-old son of a Filipino massage-parlour owner — has provoked speculation at Westminster about whether the former MP might yet secure himself a place on the Lords' front bench. "If he is confirmed as the 4th Lord Moynihan, he could be the Heritage Department's minister in the Upper House," predicts one Tory peer.

Moynihan himself shows impressive optimism over the battle for the barony. His wife Gaynor is due to produce an heir next week.

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Janet Daley says sex selection need not be feared

THE TIMES

BACK TO WORK

To create jobs, Europe must heed history and economics

At this week's "Jobs Summit" in Detroit, European politicians were presented by their American hosts with a realistic and logical agenda. This started with the premise that unemployment should be separated into two distinct components. Cyclical unemployment is caused by recessions or long periods of inadequate economic growth. Structural unemployment is that part of the problem which persists even during periods of sustained prosperity.

A relatively quick and reliable cure exists for cyclical unemployment: economic demand must be boosted, usually through sharp cuts in interest rates. That macroeconomic policy works against cyclical unemployment has recently been confirmed by experience in America, and more tentatively, in Britain. In both countries unemployment has declined after sharp cuts in interest rates which boosted economic growth. Japan, too, has accepted this logic, promising ambitious policies to boost economic activity, though its actions have so far been less impressive than its words.

European policymakers, by contrast, deny any link between joblessness and inadequate growth. In the early 1980s they even coined a clinical-sounding term, Eurosclerosis, to explain the epidemic of unemployment. Oblivious to the upsurge in job creation which followed the faster economic growth achieved in Europe from 1985 onwards, Europeans still insist that they live on a different planet from the Japanese and Americans, where entirely different economic principles apply.

Economic history and theory both strongly suggest that President Clinton is right in believing that cyclical unemployment could be quickly reduced in Europe by government action. But Europeans are unwilling to heed this message, largely because their ideological commitment to European monetary union still far exceeds their concern about the unemployed. As Padraig Flynn, the EC Employment Commissioner, stated at the summit: "There is a new conventional wisdom emerging that cyclical recovery will not be the way out, and that major structural problems are there."

Turning, then, to these structural problems, what should Europe have learnt from Detroit? The first lesson is that reducing structural unemployment will be a much longer, more uncertain process than stimulating macroeconomic recovery. The second lesson is that pulling Europe out of recession is not only necessary to cure cyclical unemployment — it is a precondition for any serious attack on long-term structural unemployment as well.

American experience suggests fairly clearly that limiting employment protection, cutting payroll taxes, curbing unions and introducing tough means-tests for social security recipients can reduce the number of workers who remain permanently jobless once the economy returns to rapid growth. But drastically cutting unemployment benefits and abolishing job protection is politically very difficult in deep recession. Even reducing payroll taxes is impossible at a time when budget deficits are swelling because of inadequate growth.

As a result, European politicians instinctively turn to a different set of unemployment cures. Instead of making markets work better, jobs can be created by promoting work-sharing, limiting working hours, taxing capital formation and lavishing subsidies on make-work public projects. Such policies promote the so-called "labour-intensive growth" officially favoured in Europe, but only at the cost of reducing productivity and prosperity for society as a whole. Such Euro-cures for unemployment may be worse than the disease.

IF IT AIN'T BROKE

Major should resist fixing local government's structure

"All politics are local" was the guiding maxim of Tip O'Neill, former Speaker of the American House of Representatives. John Major should heed him as he insists on turning English local government structures upside-down. The political dangers have been emphasised by Cabinet colleagues, not least one who fears falling victim to them, the Environment Secretary John Gummer. But, as so often before, the Prime Minister is digging his heels in on an issue that carries few rewards and very many risks.

The Local Government Commission, set up by Michael Heseltine in 1990, was intended to rectify the worst excesses of the 1974 Walker reforms of local government. These created huge and unpopular new counties, such as Humberside, Avon and Cleveland, based on madly utopian ideals of administrative efficiency. They disdained long traditions of loyalty to old cities and counties and infuriated people who felt part of, say, Rutland or the East Riding.

Had the commission been detailed to revitalise participation in local government and local elections, and restore local pride, it might have been able to produce some good ideas. Instead, its remit has been limited to mechanistic change, often where local people are perfectly content with the status quo.

Mr Heseltine pronounced himself happy with diverse solutions: unitary authorities in some areas; but two tiers (county plus district authorities) retained in others. That would have meant a return to pre-1974 days, when big towns ran themselves but country dwellers had two tiers governing them.

Soon, though, the emphasis changed. The commission was told that retention of the two-tier system should be recommended only in exceptional circumstances. It was also told to speed up its review and produce conclusions by the end of this year, instead of the previous deadline of 1997. Mr Gummer must have been worried about impending revolts within his party. But such a wide-ranging review, which ought to ensure stability in the structure of local government for decades to come, does not deserve to be rushed.

The difficulty for Mr Gummer, as Mr O'Neill could have warned him, is that this big political question has fragmented into hundreds of smaller local ones. Conservatives in urban seats tend to want unitary authorities, while their colleagues from the shires prefer the status quo. David Heathcoat-Amory, minister for Europe, but also MP for Wells in Somerset, has threatened to resign his post if his county is divided into unitary authorities. Tristan Garel-Jones, his ministerial predecessor, does not want his (Conservative-controlled) Hertfordshire County Council abolished, because it would most likely be replaced by a Labour-run authority covering his constituency of Watford.

Mr Gummer would love to scale down the whole process; to abolish the artificial counties, give most cities the chance to run themselves, and otherwise offer reform only to areas that want it. That is the sensible solution: these reforms look likely to be politically damaging, hugely expensive and not even a response to popular demand. But here the considerations become strictly local — and personal. Twice Mr Gummer's request has been turned down. Why? Kenneth Clarke wants a unitary council to end interference in his Rushcliffe constituency by the Labour county council. Mr Major would love to restore the old county of Huntingdonshire. And, of course, Mr Major does not like to back down.

NIXON IN RUSSIA

Elder statesmen can be more useful than official diplomats

It is almost 35 years since Richard Nixon's famous kitchen argument with Nikita Khrushchev. The ambitious American Vice-President, having won early fame as a champion cold warrior, was one of the first Western statesmen to confront a Soviet leader face-to-face. The memorable encounter at an American trade exhibition in Moscow led to a red-faced Khrushchev wagging his finger while Mr Nixon kept his lawyer's calm and deftly revealed the emptiness of Soviet braggadocio. Yesterday Mr Nixon, now 81, was back in Moscow and was again attempting to assess the political threat of another bombastic and unpredictable Russian politician: Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the maverick leader of the far-right Liberal Democratic Party.

Since his extraordinary political breakthrough in the last Russian elections, Mr Zhirinovsky has lost no opportunity to promote his own extremist views. Comparisons with Hitler and his threat to Western-style democracy in Russia led to his becoming a pariah abroad — denounced by liberals and shunned by Western politicians anxious not to undermine President Yeltsin. Both President Clinton and Mr Major refused to have anything to do with him during their recent visits. Yet though Mr Zhirinovsky may, like Hitler, be dismissed by Western *bien pensants* as a clown, history shows that populist politicians cannot be ignored. All too often Western governments stand accused of negligence in underestimating opposition forces, especially those considered beyond the pale: Ayatollah Khomeini is only the most egregious example.

Sending envoys with administrative responsibility implies a degree of recognition and acceptance governments are loath to confer. Who better, therefore, to undertake such missions than prominent ex-politicians? Their reputation overseas remains intact, and so touchy honour is satisfied; their activities can be dismissed as "unofficial" in case things go wrong, while their valuable reports can be passed on to their government on their return; and their long experience fits them to sum up the political weight of demagogues who hide behind a political persona.

A number of American Presidents have played this elder statesman role, but few with the success and authority of Mr Nixon. It does not matter at this stage whether his motive is his rehabilitation — which has, in foreign affairs, long been achieved — or a wish still to remain in the public eye. A consummate politician, he has an instinctive understanding of political power and manipulation. He took the risk of annoying President Yeltsin by seeking out Aleksandr Rutskoi and paid the price with the cancellation of his own Kremlin interview. That does not matter. The West is well briefed on Mr Yeltsin's thinking; it has little idea of the plotting of his opponents. Mr Nixon can provide a useful assessment.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Protection for our citizens' rights

From Mr Graham Allen, MP for Nottingham North (Labour)

Sir, Mr Walter Cairns (letter, March 11) claims that the law lords' ruling on part-timers' rights, giving unelected judges the right to overrule the wishes of an elected legislature, is "totally unacceptable". What he calls unacceptable is in fact the fundamental pillar of governmental checks and balances, a system that forms the basis of modern constitutional democracies throughout the world.

The United States, Germany and Canada, to name a few, have consciously designed such a system, so that the separate branches of government systematically prevent each other from abusing and misusing the power that is entrusted to them by the people, the people whose rights are endangered by bad government. If indeed we have rights, let us write them down for all to see rather than their being defined by judicial archaeology.

Regrettably, Great Britain does not yet have a legitimate constitutional system of checks and balances. Neither do we have an effective or accessible constitution. Our democratic culture is suffering just as badly as our fellow countrymen and women whose rights are victim to the whims of unsympathetic and unstoppable executive government. Our current political system is now daily being exposed as a sad excuse for a modern constitutional democracy.

But progress is being made, with encouraging signs from the law lords and growing public distaste at the ineffectual nature of government and Parliament. People are beginning to realise that we must begin what John Smith has termed a "democratic renewal" in this country.

Labour will establish rights for our citizens by incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law, with the goal of soon thereafter establishing a UK Bill of Rights that effectively protects our rights and freedoms from usurpation by the Executive. And we must create the parts of a modern constitution that defines in writing the powers *and limitations* of each of our political institutions.

An effective system of checks and balances must be an essential part of that constitution, including not just an elected second chamber and independent local government but a revitalised judiciary.

Mr Cairns refers to himself as an "old-fashioned democrat". If by that he means a supporter of sclerotically unprotected rights for the people, then all the more reason that the Labour Party, which cherishes our freedom and liberties, should become *modern* democrats without delay.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM ALLEN
(Labour spokesman on democracy and the constitution),
House of Commons.
March 11.

From Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC

Sir, Mrs Charlotte Horsfield (letter, March 11) seems to misunderstand my argument in *The Times Essay* on March 7. My central point is that Parliament should use its sovereign powers not to isolate this country from European law or from the European Union but to secure the rights guaranteed by the European Convention on Human Rights in British legislation. Parliament should give the same direct effect to European Convention law in British courts as we already give to European Community law, so that our courts have legislative authority to provide effective remedies.

If we as citizens intend to be vigilant in holding ministers and their officials to account for exercising their powers in breach of our human rights, we need to compel them to take Parliament more seriously. To do that, we need to persuade Parliament itself to take human rights more seriously.

We should not allow governments to continue to use the rhetoric of parliamentary sovereignty to shield themselves against effective accountability to their parliaments and to the rule of law: both to the international rule of law, and to the rule of law by our own courts.

This should be an important issue in the European elections, because it affects the enjoyment of our basic rights as citizens of this country and of the European Union.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LESTER,
House of Lords.
March 11.

From Mr John Underwood

Sir, How can we vote in June to oppose the draft constitution of the European Parliament to which Mrs Horsfield refers in her letter today?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN UNDERWOOD,
Queen's Square, Kilmington,
Warminster, Wiltshire.
March 11.

Great cricket and English qualities

From Mr Michael J. Brett

Sir, Like any ardent cricket fan I greatly enjoyed William Rees-Mogg's piece on Bertie Buse ("Who could lead England?", March 10). However, I came to opposite conclusions.

The qualities of quiet, unspectacular professionalism which Lord Rees-Mogg admires so much in Buse and finds so "English" are precisely those that were offered by John Major at the last general election, and I for one have no regrets in having supported him.

Among English qualities which Lord Rees-Mogg did not mention is a distrust of charismatic politicians. They will not rescue us from the mire of cynicism, self-doubt and boredom into which, for the time being, we appear to have sunk.

What we need is not inspirational leadership from our politicians but, from everyone else, a return to the traditional English qualities of consistency, steadfastness and self-reliance as displayed by Buse. A bit more of those in the past few decades and we would not even have needed Margaret Thatcher.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BRETT,
31 Greenwood Court,
North Twelfth Street,
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.
March 11.

From Mr Christopher Booker

Sir, I fear the golden haze of nostalgia has led my esteemed neighbour Lord Rees-Mogg into some confusion over the achievements of the Somerset cricketers of our youth. It was not Bertie Buse who, with Bill Andrews, ran through the West Indians for 84 before lunch at Taunton in 1939 but our legendary six-hitter Arthur Wellard.

Lord Rees-Mogg is confusing this with the even more memorable morning in 1946 when Andrews and Buse ran through the Indians before lunch for 64, followed by Somerset scoring 506-6 and winning the match by an innings and 11 runs. This was even more remarkable since in their previous match the Indians had scored 533-3 against Sussex, with all their four batsmen scoring centuries.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BOOKER,
The Old Rectory, Litton, Bath.

From Mr Nicholas Birch

Sir, In recalling the career of Bertie Buse, William Rees-Mogg might appropriately have mentioned his catastrophic benefit match, played at Bath on June 6, 1953. This was the notoriously wet week of the Coronation, and a newly laid pitch brought financial disaster for Buse, the match ending before 6 o'clock on the first day when 30 wickets fell for 292 runs.

Somerset were bowled out in under 26 overs for 55. Lancashire were then bowled out for 158, Buse taking 6 for 41, but the awful day was completed when Somerset were bowled out yet again for 79, Tattersall of Lancashire taking 13 wickets in the day.

Wisden does not record poor Buse's feelings.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS BIRCH,
139 Herkomer Road, Bushey,
Watford, Hertfordshire.
March 10.

From Mr L. A. Holford-Strevens

Sir, If it took William Rees-Mogg as long to drink two glasses of George's Best Bitter as it took H. T. F. Buse to bowl 33 overs — and the bowlers at the other end 32 — then, even allowing for the faster over rates of 1951, it must have been a very "thin and sour post-war brew" indeed. I am heartily glad I have never encountered it.

But the question arises: what beer did the young John Major drink at the Oval — and what has it done to him?

Yours faithfully,
L. A. HOLFORD-STREVENS,
115 Kingston Road, Oxford.
March 10.

Ultrasound scans

From Dr C. A. Luck

Sir, Your report on the apparent inaccuracy of ultrasound (March 1) reflects an earlier article in which Professor Martin Whittle stated that ultrasound is only as good as the people who are using it (October 27, 1993).

A government initiative on early pregnancy bleeding has resulted in the purchase of small, mobile ultrasound machines to be sited in gynaecology wards throughout the country. Midwives and junior medical staff are encouraged to perform the seemingly straightforward technique to assess the presence of a foetal heartbeat.

Diagnostic ultrasound is a "pattern recognition" technique not suitable for the occasional "quick look". It is a procedure borne out of years of experience and training. It is inevitable that, if the inexperienced are encouraged in this way, mistakes will follow. Professionals are encouraged, but not mandated, to pass a difficult examination. Yet others with no formal training are given an ultrasound probe and told to use it.

The initiative was borne out of a perceived need to cut costs and limit maternal in-patient stay. The purchase of the machines was not discussed at local or even regional specialty level. The colleges have no jurisdiction over the indiscriminate use of diagnostic ultrasound, unlike ionising radiation.

The problem will progress further. You identify (report, February 28) excess finance remaining with some fundholding GPs. This will encourage further purchase of small, mobile ultrasound machines for GP surgeries. Again, the operators may not be optimally trained. Those with the most experience may wish to stay where their expertise is put to maximum use, in the hospital ultrasound departments.

Let us hope that the public enquiry by the South Glamorgan Health Authority, to which you refer on March 1, identifies the problem and some form of mandatory training and level of expertise be made essential before diagnostic ultrasound becomes responsible for the "accidental" termination of pregnancy and is degraded in the public eye.

Yours sincerely,
CAROLE A. LUCK
(Chairman, Oxford Regional Radiology Sub-Committee),
Meadowbank, Maidens Green,
Winkfield, Windsor, Berkshire.
March 2.

Diabetics' anniversary

From the Chairman of the British Diabetic Association

Sir, Just over 60 years ago, on February 15, 1934, *The Times* helped to make history by publishing a letter from H. G. Wells proposing the formation of an association which "would bring together people with diabetes". The responses to Wells's letter led directly to the foundation on March 16, 1934, of what is now the British Diabetic Association (BDA).

Sixty years on, the BDA celebrates its diamond anniversary. Sixty years hence, we hope that those who follow may look back on many further advances, even perhaps the eradication of diabetes. To achieve all this, we need to work with government, health professionals, industry, and people with diabetes and their carers.

As many as 250,000 people have diabetes but are unaware of it. This number could be significantly diminished by greater awareness and earlier detection. Investment now in improved diabetes care, particularly the treatment of complications, will bring about abundant savings in the future.

Very encouraging work along these lines is already going forward in association with the Department of Health, through the St Vincent Task Force for Diabetes, dedicated to the goals of the St Vincent Declaration, set in St Vincent, Italy, in 1989. Wells's call to arms remains as urgent today as it was 60 years ago. There is still much that can be done and we invite all people of good will to help us do it.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY KEEN,
Chairman, Executive Council,
British Diabetic Association,
10 Queen Anne Street, W1.

Lloyd's hardship

From Mr S. Sherwood

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr D. S. Wolff (March 7), overlooks two points about the help Lloyd's Members Hardship Committee is giving to stricken names.

Syndicate members, by virtue of the finance which they contribute, enable their syndicates to function as insurers to the world, thus earning this country significant sums of foreign currency: no names, no Lloyd's.

Secondly, many professional bodies build up reserves against contingencies from past profits. Without these reserves, representing profits withheld from distribution and thus a levy on the names, the hardship committee would not exist.

Mr Wolff has not learned the lesson the Government is trying to tell us all — you can't get money from nowhere.

Yours (thankfully an ex-name),
S. SHERWOOD,
Sherwood & Partners,
30 Addiscombe Grove,
Croydon, Surrey.
March 7.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Well-bred dogs

From Mr C. K. Spittall

Sir, Your leader on dog-breeding ("Campaign for real dogs", March 11) is apposite but fails to provide an obvious solution to the problem of deteriorating genetic quality.

From earliest times the dog was not a pet but "man's best friend" because both man and dog fulfilled mutually advantageous roles; man helped dog to get food and warmth and dog helped man as assistant herder, hunter and guard.

Those of today's breeds that still fulfil these roles generally continue to be healthy, vigorous and, above all, intelligent, unlike many of the extremes seen at Cruft's.

The introduction of a substantial dog-licence fee would certainly go a long way to reducing the proliferation of useless breeds, nuisance in public places and the need to destroy 1,000 dogs a day, while providing a useful boost to public coffers.

Exemptions to a (say) £50 annual fee could be made but for those who actually need a dog such a sum would be regarded as a normal, legitimate running expense.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SPITTALL,
The Stable, Trollaby Lane,
Union Mills, Isle of Man.
March 11.

From Mr Ian R. Deans

Sir, I realise that Jonathan Young ("Gunning to be top dog", Weekend, March 12) was concentrating on labradors and golden retrievers, but (by implication) he suggested that all the gundogs being exhibited at Cruft's last week were unable to work in the field.

In fact, owners of many gundog breeds are interested in retaining their dual-purpose qualities. As an owner, breeder and exhibitor of Sussex spaniels I can vouch for this.

Not only were there two full Sussex spaniel champions at Cruft's this year (show champions which have also qualified as working dogs) but many of the dogs exhibited work regularly and compete in working tests.

As a minor spaniel breed it is unlikely that many of our dogs will be able to compete on equal terms with the best at field trials, but they will work with gusto and some competence if kindly and patiently trained.

Yours faithfully,
IAN R. DEANS,
21 Gores Lane, Formby, Merseyside.
March 13.

Beware of the mite

From Mrs Hilary Machtus

Sir, How I wish I could put a ferocious house-mite warning notice on my 18-year-old daughter's bedroom door (Mrs White's letter, March 10).

Alas, I am too late as it is already adorned with a large poster of a pig proclaiming: "My Room, My Mess, My Business."

On the other hand, I do find the keys to the car are a useful incentive towards her making periodic attempts to keep the microscopic menaces under control.

Yours faithfully,
HILARY MACHTUS,
Fairlawns, Maidstone Road,
Hadlow, Kent.
March 11.

Defective goods

From the President of the Law Society and the Chairman of the Consumers' Association

Sir, Mr David Clelland's otherwise excellent Sale and Supply of Goods Bill, which goes into committee on March 16, fails to address a serious inadequacy in the remedies open to a buyer who acquires a new product — a car, for example — which turns out to have been faulty on delivery.

Under existing law, the buyer is entitled to a refund, but only if the fault is discovered and the goods rejected within a very short time after purchase — often a mere few days. (Oddly enough, the hire purchaser is treated more favourably than the cash buyer.)

It would not be difficult to remedy this defect in the law by a short addition to Mr Clelland's Bill, which would provide that the time for rejecting faulty goods begins when the fault is discovered, or ought to have been, rather than on delivery of the goods.

It cannot be right that a buyer may forfeit the main legal remedy about a problematical product before he could have discovered that there was anything wrong with it.

Yours faithfully,
RODGER PANNONE
(President, The Law Society),
PHILLIP WHITEHEAD
(Chairman, Consumers' Association),
The Law Society,
113 Chancery Lane, WC2.
March 10.

Tax on surpluses?

From Professor Hans Singer

Sir, In his debate with Sir James Goldsmith, John Williamson (letter, March 11) rightly points out that "we do have a right to defend ourselves against countries exporting unemployment by running large surpluses when the world economy is weak". However, it is doubtful whether international rules are sufficient and even more so whether trade measures, with all their dangers of retaliation and resulting trade wars, are the right answer.

In this connection, is it not time to remember Keynes's proposal over 50 years ago in his original ideas for Bretton Woods? This was for an international tax on surplus countries amounting to 1 per cent per month of their surpluses. The proceeds were to be channelled to the deficit countries which by the same argument were creating employment in the surplus countries.

Is this an idea whose time has come?

Yours sincerely,
H. W. SINGER,
The Institute of Development Studies,
University of Sussex,
Brighton BN1 9RE.

Idyll on the roads

From Mr Julian Dare

Sir, In all the television car commercials I have seen to date, the car advertised has enjoyed a completely traffic-free ride. Is this a case of auto-delusion on the part of the advertisers?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN DARE,
26 Russell Court,
St Margarets Road, Oxford.
March 15.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 15: The Prime Minister of the Republic of India was received by The Queen.

Her Majesty received Fellows participating in the Commonwealth Foundation Fellowship Scheme to promote Commonwealth Understanding.

Sir Richard Luce (Chairman) and Miss Alexandra Jones (Deputy Director of the Commonwealth Foundation) were present.

The Queen held a Council at 12.30pm.

There were present: The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP (Lord President), the Earl Ferrers (Minister of State, Home Office), the Rt Hon William Waldegrave MP (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) and the Rt Hon John Redwood MP (Secretary of State for Wales).

The Rt Hon Sir Mark Saville was sworn in as a Member of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council.

Mr Nigel Nicholls was in attendance as Clerk of the Council.

At the Council Her Majesty pricked the List of High Sheriffs for the Counties of England (other than Cornwall and those in the Duchy of Lancaster) and Wales.

The Rt Hon Antony Newton MP had an audience of The Queen before the Council.

After the Council the Rt Hon William Waldegrave MP had an audience of The Queen when Her Majesty pricked the List of High Sheriffs for the Counties of the Duchy of Lancaster.

The Rt Hon John Major MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an audience of The Queen this evening.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 15: The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this morning attended a trustees' meeting at 81 Newgate Street, London EC1.

Her Royal Highness, President, Royal Yachting Association, this afternoon attended the Commodores Reception and Annual General Meeting at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for West Midlands (Mr Robert Taylor). The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, accompanied by Commander Timothy Laurence RN, this evening attended the Fund's Seventy Fifth Birthday Private Appeal Dinner at Buckingham Palace.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 15: The Prince of Wales, President, The Prince's Trusts, this morning presented the European Vision Awards at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, London SW1.

Mr Matthew Butler was in attendance.

His Royal Highness, President, Royal Naval Film Corporation, chaired the Annual General Meeting, followed by a Luncheon, at St James's Palace.

The Prince of Wales, Chairman, Royal Collection Trust, this afternoon attended a meeting of the trustees at St James's Palace.

His Royal Highness, Founder and President, The Prince of Wales's Institute of Architecture, this evening gave a Reception at St James's Palace to launch the new magazine "Perspectives on Architecture".

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 15: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, the English Folk Dance and Song Society, this afternoon visited Cecil Sharp House, Regent's Park Road, London, NW1.

The Hon Mrs Whitehead was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 15: The Duke of Gloucester accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester this evening opened the Exhibition "Goya: Truth and Fantasy" at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1.

Mrs Michael Wigley and Major Nicholas Barne were in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 15: The Duke of Kent, Trustee, this evening attended a Dinner, at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7.

Mr Nicolas Adamson was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Mr Matthew Bannister, controller, BBC Radio 1, 37; Miss Teresa Berganza, mezzo-soprano, 59; Mr Bernardo Bertolucci, film director, 53; Sir Patrick Dean, diplomat, 85; Canon Hugo de Waal, Bishop of Thetford, 59; Sir Philip Foreman, mechanical engineer, 71; Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher Foxley-Norris, 77; Sir Ewart Jones, chemist, 83; Sir Anthony Kenny, president, British Academy, 63; Mr Leo McKern, actor, 74; Miss Georgina Nayler, director, National Heritage Memorial Fund, 35; Miss Kate Nelligan, actress, 43; Mr Roger Norrington, conductor, 60; Mr R.G. Puttick, former chairman, Taylor Woodrow, 78; Dame Lucie Rie, potter, 92; Miss Bridget Rowe, editor, *The People*, 44; Mr John Watts, racehorse trainer, 52.

Appointments

Legal
David Theodore Alban Davies to be a Circuit Judge assigned to the Wales and Chester circuit.

Army
Major General Michael David Jackson to be Honorary Colonel 10th (Volunteer) Battalion The Parachute Regiment.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pieter Hooft, poet, Amsterdam, 1581; Caroline Herschel, astronomer, Hanover, Germany, 1750; James Madison, 4th American President 1809-17, Port Conway, Virginia, 1751; Matthew Flinders, navigator, Donington, Lincolnshire, 1774; George Ohm, physicist, Erlanger, Germany, 1787.

DEATHS: Alexander III, King of Scotland 1249-86, Burntisland, Fife, 1286; Giovanni Pergolesi, composer, Pozzuoli, Italy, 1736; Jean Baptiste Rousseau, poet, Brussels, 1741; Robert Surtees, novelist, Brighton, 1864; Aubrey Beardsley, illustrator, Menton, 1898; John James Macleod, physiologist, pioneer of insulin, Nobel laureate 1923, Aberdeen, 1935; Sir Austen Chamberlain, Foreign Secretary 1924-29, Nobel peace laureate 1925, London, 1937; Constantin Brancusi, sculptor, Paris, 1957; William Henry Beveridge, Baron Beveridge, pioneer of social security, Oxford, 1963.

The American Military Academy was founded at West Point, 1802.

The first liquid-propelled rocket was launched by American physicist Dr Robert Goddard, 1926.

Adolf Hitler introduced conscription, 1935.

High Sheriffs

High Sheriffs appointed by Her Majesty in Council for the year 1994:

England (Except Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire):
Avon: Christopher Marsden-Smedley.
Bedfordshire: Brian Edward Howard.
Berkshire: Major the Hon Jeremy David Alfonso John Monson.
Buckinghamshire: John Michael Wheeler.
Cambridgeshire: Frederick James Grounds.
Cheshire: Robert James McAlpine.
Cleveland: George Derek Saul.
Cumbria: Frederick John Richard Boddy.
Derbyshire: Mrs Gillian Mary Hutchinson.
Devon: The Countess of Arran.
Dorset: Captain Michael Fulford-Dobson, RN.
Durham: Nicholas David Barclay Straker.
East Sussex: The Lady Lloyd of Berwick.
Essex: Mrs Evelyn Bridget Patricia Ward-Thomas.
Gloucestershire: Colonel Richard Annesley Corxwell-Rogers.
Greater London: Antony James Butterwick.
Hampshire: Charles Anthony Palmer-Tomkinson.
Hereford and Worcester: George Meyrey Clive.
Hertfordshire: Lady Staughton.
Humberside: Thomas Wilson Boyd.
Isle of Wight: Michael George Ball.
Kent: Mrs Rosemary Chloe Teacher.
Leicestershire: John Michael Stannage Whitehead.
Lincolnshire: Simon John Edward Turner.
Norfolk: Francis Cator.
Northamptonshire: Mrs Lavinia Anne Perry.
Northumberland: Mrs Michael Lyndon Skeggs.
North Yorkshire: Richard Edward Howard-Vyse.
Nottinghamshire: Richard Bertram Godwin-Austen.
Oxfordshire: David Peter Mason.
Shropshire: Jeremy Hugh Gifford Lywood.
Somerset: Elizabeth Periam Acland-Hood, Lady Gass.
South Yorkshire: Michael Gordon Samuel Frampton.
Staffordshire: Colonel Michael Philip Kenneth Beaty.
Suffolk: Brigadier Adam Brampton Douglas Gordon.
Surrey: Timothy Francis Goad.
Tyne and Wear: Roger Charlton Spoor.
Warwickshire: Henry David Warriner.
West Midlands: Sir George Adrian Hayhurst Cadbury.
West Sussex: Peter Longley.
West Yorkshire: Charles Wilfred David Sunciffe.
Wiltshire: Mrs Anna Ruth Grange.

Wales
Clwyd: Captain Nicholas Montgomery Archdale.
Dyfed: Dr John Geraint Jenkins.
Gwent: Samuel Anthony John Pierre Bossanquet.
Gwynedd: Robert Hefin Davies.
Mid Glamorgan: Colonel Thomas Udy Buckthought.
Powys: Mrs Susan Angela Garmons Ballance.
South Glamorgan: Mrs Joanna Gethin Cory.
West Glamorgan: Colin Reginald Rees.

Duchy of Lancaster
The Queen pricked the names of the following High Sheriffs on the Lists for the ensuing year:
Lancashire: Mrs Judith Josa Duckworth.
Greater Manchester: John Basil Zochonis.
Merseyside: Mrs Anita Samuels.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will hold an investiture at Buckingham Palace at 11.00.

The Princess Royal will open the new challenge ropes course at Churchtown Farm Field Studies Centre, Lanlivery, Bodmin, at 11.10; as President of the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association will attend the annual meeting at the Royal Cornwall Showground, Wadebridge, at 1.35; and will attend the Royal Society for Asian Affairs dinner at the Savoy Hotel at 7.40.

The Duchess of Kent will attend the rededication ceremony of HMS *Brecon* at Rosyth Royal Dockyard at 11.15.

Oscar Wood

A memorial service for Oscar Wood, student of Christ Church 1956-1987 and emeritus student 1987-1994, will be held in Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on Saturday, May 14, at 2.30pm.

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother arriving at Cheltenham racecourse yesterday for the start of the National Hunt Festival Racing, pages 44, 45

Memorial services

Viscount Wimborne
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Viscount Wimborne was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. The Rev Donald Reeves officiated and Viscount Wimborne, son, said the bidding prayer. Mr David Wheeler and the Hon Charles Guest, brother, read the lessons and Mr Godfrey Carey, QC, and Mr Zhiping Wang gave addresses. During the service "Set me a seal upon thine heart" by William Walton and "Life Cycle" by Lord Wimborne, son, were sung by the choir. Among those present were:

Viscountess Wimborne (widow), the Hon Ilona Guest (daughter), the Dowager Viscountess Wimborne (mother), the Hon Julian and Mrs Guest (brother and sister-in-law), Mr and the Hon Mr Rao Gandhari (brother-in-law and sister), the Hon Mrs Charles Guest (sister-in-law), the Dowager Lady Mancroft (mother-in-law), Captain Grant Barker, Miss Samantha Barker, Mr George Barker, Miss Camilla Barker and Miranda Barker (stepchildren), the Hon Mrs Talbot, Mr Henry Guest, Mr William Guest, Mr Jonathan Guest, Mr John Guest, Mr and Mrs Robin Herbert, Mr Charles Talbot, Mr and Mrs Vincent Poklewski-Koziell, Miss Eliza Poklewski-Koziell, Mr Sasha Poklewski-Koziell.

The Earl of Darnley, Viscount Ridley, KG, and Viscountess Ridley, Lord and Lady Brownlow, Lord and Lady Mancroft, Lady Faringdon, Lord Kilmarnock, Lady Margaret Colville, Lady Jean Babington Smith, the Hon Mrs Walter Keppel, the Hon Mikaela Irwin, the Hon Harry and Lady Lennia Lawson-Johnston, Dr the Hon Robin Boyd, the Hon Mrs Juliet Bloss, the Hon Mrs Kate Hicks Beach, the Hon Christopher Chetwode, the Hon Mrs Bolton, the Hon Mrs Charlotte Morrison, the Hon Mrs Paul Asquith, Sir Richard Carew Pole, Sir John Graham, Lady d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, Sir Richard Osborn, Dame Margot Smith, Sir Timothy and Lady Daunt, Mr and the Hon Mrs Simon Dickinson, Mr and the Hon Mrs Alistair Eadie, Prince and Princess Nicholas von Preussen.

Mr Bernard Coe (chairman, Harris and Dixon) and Mrs Coe with Mr J Churchward (managing director) and Mrs Churchward and past and present members of staff: Mr Paul Smith (Ernitage Group), Mr Simon Ward (Guestair), Mr David Rawlins (senior partner, Field Fisher Waterhouse), Mr H S Groome (Savills) and Mr Barry Theobald-Hicks (Royal Army Medical Association, City of London branch), Mrs Richard Quarry, Mr Adam Quarry, Mr Nicolas Paravicini, Mr and Mrs Patrick Guest, Mr and Mrs R Albert, Captain and Mrs Fred Barker, Miss Amber Nuttall, Olympia Nuttall, Mr Mark Birley, Mme M-L le Blond, Mrs Gay Ropner, Captain and Mrs Clive Adderley and Mr and Mrs M Simpson.

Mr Patrick Libby
A celebration of the life of Mr Patrick Libby was held yesterday at St Paul's, Covent Garden. Father Jean Charles-Roux officiated. Mr Anthony Besch spoke about the Patrick Libby prize and Mr Adam Pollock paid tribute. Mr Simon Callow read from *Nicholas Nickleby* by Charles Dickens and Mr Stefan Andhé read "En Värld Är Varje Människa" by Gunnar Ekelöf. Miss Maggi Hambling gave an address. Patrick Libby's colleagues and former students from the National Opera Studio and musicians from the Royal College of Music, under the direction of Mr Adam Pollock and conducted by Dr Jane Glover, also took part. Those present included:

Mr and Mrs Charles Libby (parents), Mr Christopher Libby (brother), Dr and Mrs Gerald Libby (brother and sister-in-law), Miss Alison Libby (sister), Mr David Libby, Mr Alastair Libby, Mr William Libby, Miss Georgia Libby, Mrs Clare Libby, Mr Julius Bourke, Miss Laura Culme-Seymour, Mr Sam Geddes, Miss Elisa Sesti.

The Rev Theodore Mathieson
The Right Rev Ronald Gordon, President of the Oxford Mission, was present at a memorial service for the Rev Theodore Mathieson held yesterday at St Michael's Church, Paternoster Royal. The Rev Alwyn Jones officiated, assisted by Mr John Corrie, Chairman of the Oxford Mission. Mr Anup Kumar Biswas, Mr Simon Ling and Prebendary Frederick Preston read the lessons and the Rev John Webber gave an address.

Dinner

Queen Mary and Westfield College
At a ceremony held last night at Queen Mary and Westfield College, London University, Mr Martin Harris, chairman of council, admitted as Fellows Professor E. Alan Bevan, Mrs June Bridgeman, Professor John Chalker, Miss Wendy Taylor and Mr Alan Lee Williams, who also delivered the Fellows' lecture. Sir Norman Lindop, vice-chairman of council, and Professor Graham Zellick, principal, were the hosts at a dinner held afterwards in honour of the new Fellows.

Luncheon

HM Government
Mr Alastair Goodlad, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was host at a luncheon given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in honour of Mr Tommy Koh, Director of the Institute of Policy Studies in Singapore.

Reception

HM Government
Mr Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, was host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Lancaster House, St James's, in honour of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, Prime Minister of India.

Lecture

Institution of Lighting Engineers
Professor Sir Hermann Bondi delivered the Charles Marques Memorial lecture to the Institution of Lighting Engineers yesterday at the Royal Institution. Mr Gareth T.C. Prichard, president, presided.

Vivid hues of spring bring show to life

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A GLORIOUS mixture of plants makes up the Royal Horticultural Society's early spring show which opened in Westminster yesterday. They range from cacti and succulents, through lilies and pinks (more usually associated with summer) to spring-flowering perennials, shrubs and bulbs of all kinds which form the core of the show.

A collection of *Camellia* x *williamsii* cultivars has been staged by Burncoose and South Down Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall, ranging from the popular "Donation" with large pink flowers, to the yellow and cream "Jury's Yellow", which is now becoming a familiar sight at shows.

Many exhibits include primulas, but W. E. Th. Ingwersen, of East Sussex, is showing a comprehensive range of colour forms of *Primula allionii*, which is best grown in an alpine house. They range from white (*alba* and "Avalanche"), through pink (such as the dark "Pennine Pink" and "Ingwersen's Forms"), to lilac ("Miniera" is particularly eye-catching).

Daffodils are featured at this show. A selection of small and miniature kinds has been staged by Broadleigh Gardens, of Bishop's Hull, Somerset. They include *Narcissus cyclamineus* and its hybrids, like the very tiny "Minicycla", with distinctive swept-back petals.

Glebe Cottage Plants, of Warkleigh, Devon, has arranged spring-flowering plants and bulbs acccording to colour. The "blue section" includes a drift of the beautiful sky-blue *Corydalis flemosa* "Purple Leaf", and an unusual navelwort, *Omphalodes cappadocica* "Starry Eyes", whose blue flowers have a lilac edge. There is a new lungwort in the "white section", *Pulmonaria* "Moonstone", with pure white flowers and foliage heavily mottled with silver.

Several RHS competitions are being held with this show, including the early daffodil competition. In this Dan du Plessis, of Saltash, Cornwall, has won the class for six cultivars.

In the early camellia competition the division for individual blooms is well supported, with D. R. Strauss, of Ardingly, West Sussex, and the Duke of Devonshire, of Chatsworth, Derbyshire, being leading prizewinners. Both have included "Jury's Yellow" in their exhibits.

There is also an early rhododendron competition. In this High Beeches Conservation Trust, of Handcross, West Sussex, has won the keenly contested class for four species with *Rhododendron beaneanum* (scarlet), *R. irroratum* (pink, speckled crimson), *R. hookeri* (red), and *R. calophytum* (white).

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N.E.R. Brunt and Miss S.R. Wichett
The engagement is announced between Nigel, youngest son of Mrs Sheila Brunt, of Bell Bar, Hertfordshire, and Sharoo, daughter of Mrs Marion Norris, of Potters Bar, Hertfordshire.

Mr S.W.F. Butler and Miss S.E. Hansen
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs Deryk Butler, of Thundersley, Essex, and Sarah Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Hansen, of Chelmondiston, Suffolk.

Mr D.J.W. Clemes and Miss I.H.G. Kresse
The engagement is announced between David John Willis, son of Doreen and John Clemes, of East Hoathly, Sussex, and Ingrid Hendrika Georgine, younger daughter of the late Hans G. Kresse and of An Zandstra, of the Netherlands.

Mr P.C. Fitzsimons and Miss S.C. Hyde
The engagement is announced between Paul, younger son of the late Mr Felix Fitzsimons and of Mrs Margaret Fitzsimons, of Tenterden, Kent, and Susannah, daughter of the late Mr John Hyde and of Mrs Patricia Hyde, of Guildford, Surrey.

Mr B.P.T. de Haldevang and Miss I. Macdonald
The engagement is announced between Benedict, youngest son of Baron and Baroness von Haldenwang, of Armsheim, Germany, and Isla, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Hamish Macdonald, of Edinburgh.

Mr J.S. Henry and Miss J.K.M. White
The engagement is announced between Julian Stewart, son of Mr Brian Henry, of Pangbourne, Berkshire, and Mrs Elizabeth Evans, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire, and Juliet Katharine Mary, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs David White, of Penn Street, Buckinghamshire.

Mr C.G. Honnywill and Miss S.E. Claisse
The engagement is announced between Charles Geir, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Godfrey Honnywill, of Lamberhurst, Kent, and Sophie Ellen, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Claisse, of Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire.

Mr M.C. MacGregor and Miss T.J. Newall
The engagement is announced between Mark MacGregor, of Pimlico, London, and Tracy-Jane Newall, of Hallow, Worcester.

Mr R.D. Moncrieff and Miss A.H.C. Dale
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr Thomas Moncrieff, of Horsham, Sussex, and the late Mrs Jean Moncrieff, and Allison, daughter of Mr Hazlett Dale and Mrs Ruth Dale.

Mr M.J. Thomas and Dr S.M. Happel
The engagement is announced between Michael James, son of the late Mr and Mrs E.J. Thomas, of Lasham, Hampshire, and Susan Margaret, daughter of Dr and Mrs John Happel, of Ropley, Hampshire.

TRADE: 071 481 1982
PRIVATE: 071 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313
FAX: 071 782 7828

Fornication and indecency of any kind, or ruthless greed, must not be so much as mentioned among you, as befits the people of God. Ephesians 5 : 3

BIRTHS

ARSELL - On March 11th 1994, to Sarah (née Pettman) and Mark, a son, Thomas Peter Picton.

BERNSTORFF - On 12th March 1994, in Aachen, Germany, to Daisy and Tobias, a son, Albrecht Christian Carl Antonius Maria, a brother for Friedrich and Cecely.

BOWDITCH - See Crawford.

CHROM-JACOBSEN - Born on March 11th at the Wellington Hospital was Johan. His proud brother Tore and parents Hanne and Per welcome him with all their love.

CRACE - On 14th March 1994, in Fiona (née Butterworth) and Christopher, a daughter, Sasha Amy.

CRAWFORD - On 14th March in Stirling Royal Infirmary, a daughter, Colette McLeod to Colin and Gillian (née Bowditch).

DUNN - To Barbara (née Clark) and Paul, on March 9th, at Queen Mary's Hospital, a daughter, Lucy Dominique, a sister for Matthew and Nicholas.

FENN - On March 13th 1994, to Debbie (née Taylor) and Jonathan, a daughter, Sian Emily, a sister for James.

HEWARD - On 13th March, in Annabel and Paul, a daughter, Rosanna Sarah, a sister for Sam.

JAMES - On 14th March, in Letty (née Waters) and Philip, a beautiful daughter, Dorothea (Dodie) Sarah Penrose, a sister for Magnus and Bertie.

KEATING - On March 9th, to Kim and Michael, a daughter, Mia Otylka, a sister to Cecilia and Emily.

KENNEDY - On March 10th 1994, to Edward and Karen, a son, Christopher William, a brother for Patrick.

KIRKMAN - On March 15th, to Catherine (née Burgess) and Jon, a daughter, Charlotte Ann.

LAKEMAN - On 27th February 1994, to Sarah and Ray, a son, Jacques Gerard.

LANDON - On 10th March 1994, to Carole (née Healy) and Mark, a son, Tom, 7lbs 2oz.

MANN - On March 9th, to Jane (née Mason-Dare) and Michael, a daughter, Athena Jane.

BIRTHS

MATHER - On 11th March, to Jackie (née Littleton) and Francis, a daughter, Chloe, a sister for Harry.

OXBOROUGH-POWELL - On 16th February, in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to Louise and Timothy, a daughter, Tamsyn Avalon, a sister for Tara.

WALTER - On March 6th, to Catherine (née Blatchford) and Stephen, a son, Alexander, a brother for James.

WALTON - To Carolyn (née Holmes) and James, in London on March 14th 1994, Georgia Leonora Lucy, a sister for Arabella.

MARRIAGES

SEDGWICK-USLIANER - On March 14th 1994 in Bath, Mark Henry, younger son of Captain and Mrs Jeremy Sidgwick, to Dawn Allison Uslianer, younger daughter of Annette and Don Golf, of Tampa Fla.

DEATHS

BARON - Anthony. On March 9th peacefully at The Whittington Hospital aged 76. Dearly beloved husband of Ann and caring father of Andy and Betsy. He will always be remembered for his leadership, dedication and erudition as a Surgeon. An outstanding Pioneer in the early days of the NHS. We all treasure our memories of him and he will be greatly missed. Funeral Service at West Chapel, Golders Green Crematorium, Hoop Lane, London NW11, at 3 pm on Tuesday 22nd March. Flowers to William Nodes Funeral Directors, 2 Broadway Parade, Crouch End, London N8.

BROOK - On March 13th Mothering Sunday peacefully at Boarbank Hall, Cumbria, in her 91st year, Janet Moss, widow of Richard Brook, one-time Bishop of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich and previously of Cirencester and Clitheroe. Much loved sister and aunt. Requiem Mass at Boarbank, Thursday March 17th 10.30 am followed by cremation at Lancaster at noon.

DEATHS

CUBBOLD - On March 8th 1994, suddenly in hospital, Mary Patricia McCready A.R.C.O., wife of the late Cdr. Peter Cibbold R.D., beloved mother of Catherine and Charmian. Funeral Service at St Pauls Church, Salisbury Green, on Thursday March 17th at 12 noon. Family flowers only. Donations in St George's School, Windsor Castle c/o A.H. Freemantle, 46 South Street, Titchfield PO14 4DY.

DAUDY - Philippe CBE (Hon), Médaille Militaire. On 12th March suddenly in Beijing. Beloved husband of Marie-Christine, adored and devoted father and grandfather. Private funeral in Paris. No flowers please, but donations if desired to Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Fund, 40 Queen Square, WC1N 3AJ.

DREY - Rudolf E.A., suddenly, on 8th March in Switzerland. Beloved husband of Pamela, much loved father of Liz and grandfather of Jamie. Funeral Service on Wednesday 23rd March at 2pm at St John the Evangelist, Blackheath followed by a private cremation at Falconwood Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to the League of Friends of the Royal Brompton Hospital, Sydney Street, London SW3 6NP.

EELEY - Evelyn, on March 14th, peacefully in her 90th year. Widow of Ian and mother of Philip, Nicholas and Mark. Funeral Service at 1.30 pm, Friday March 18th at Golders Green Crematorium. Flowers to Leverton & Sons, 624 Finchley Road, London NW11.

HALL - On March 14th peacefully in her sleep, Margaret Urmia aged 69 and devoted wife of Ronnie and dearly loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Cremation private, followed by remembrance service at St Mary's Church, Wartleton, near Heathfield, E. Sussex, at 2.45 pm on Thursday April 7th. Please no letters or flowers, but donations in Friends of Eastbourne Hospitals c/o R Jarvis, Cross to Hand, Heathfield, E. Sussex TN21 0SR. tel: (0435) 862833.

DEATHS

HARKNESS - Florence Margaret, widow of the late Sir Joseph Harkness C.M.G., O.B.E., on March 11th 1994 peacefully in her 101st year, much loved mother of Peter Harkness of St Pol-de-Leon, France and Margaret Dundonald of Beaulieu, Jersey.

HAYTER - On March 13th 1994, Reginald James Reg' aged 80. Funeral Service St Bride's, Fleet Street, EC4, on Tuesday March 22nd 1994 at 11 am followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please, but if desired donations in Mount Vernon Sanner Appeal c/o T.A. Ellement and Son Ltd., 21 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 3HR. tel: (081) 866-0324.

HUNS - J.M.M. (Michael) on March 14th 1994, Formerly Deputy Assistant Commissioner Metropolitan Police and latterly with the United Nations Drug Control Programme, Vienna. Husband of Nella, father of Sandra, Marika, Tarsen and Annemarie. Peacefully at his brother's home in Oxfordshire, surrounded by family. Family funeral at Brasenose College, Oxford, Monday 21st March at 11am. Memorial Service at the Church of St Mary, Deverdale, Worcestershire, on 23rd April at 4pm. Donations in lieu of flowers to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund c/o N.J. Fisher, Morton Fisher Solicitors, 4 St John Street, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

KEATING - Matthew James Patrick, K.S.G., husband of Tylia, father of Michael, on March 14th. Family funeral March 21st; Memorial Service to be arranged later.

KINNEAR - Peacefully on 14th March, in her 101st year, Georgina Lilian, beloved wife of the late George Kinnear CBE of Nairobi, Kenya, mother of Ian (Tim), grandmother of Miranda and Susannah. Service at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on Wednesday 23rd March at 12 noon. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, to British Diabetic Association, 10 Queen Ann Street, London W1M OBD.

LIGHT - On Monday 14th March 1994, peacefully at home, Audrey, beloved wife of the late Harold and dearly loved mother and grandmother. Funeral Service, 1 pm, Friday 18th March at Mattingley Church.

DEATHS

LOWENTHAL - On March 14th, peacefully in The Royal Free Hospital, Julia, beloved aunt and great-aunt. Funeral Service at Hoop Lane Crematorium, Golders Green, Thursday March 17th at 12.30 pm.

MITCHISON - On March 14th 1994, peacefully at home after an illness borne with great dignity and courage, George Alexander (formerly Managing Director of Norman Hartnell Ltd. of Bruton Street, London) aged 77. Beloved husband of Doris, adored father of Claire and Norman, devoted grandfather and great-grandfather and much loved father-in-law. A true gentleman, a noble spirit and a kind and trusted friend. Funeral to be held at the Parish Church All Saints of Millbrook, near Torpoint, Cornwall, at 2.30 pm on 25th March 1994. Flowers and all other enquiries to Ugalde and Son, 16 Castle Street, Liskeard, Cornwall (0579) 343168.

MORLEY - Peacefully on 12th March, Dr. John Morley, beloved husband of Mollie (deceased), much loved father and grandfather. Funeral at Cheltenham Crematorium on Friday 18th March at 11 am. Family flowers only. Donations may be sent to Parkinsons Disease Society, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London WC1H 0RA.

NABOKSI - Herbert Henryl, loving husband to Dineke and father to Ofordi, much loved by all who knew him. Died suddenly on 9th March 1994 aged 54 years, he will be fondly remembered and sadly missed. The funeral service will be held at St Andrews Methodist Church, Frognal Lane, London NW3, on 18th March 1994 at 10.45 am. Flowers to be sent to the Funeral Directors: Leverton and Sons Ltd., 624 Finchley Road, London NW11.

OAKESHOTT - On Saturday 12th March 1994 peacefully in her sleep, aged 96, Edith Elaine Mary (née Criddle), widow of Major General John Field Fraser Oakeshott, C.B., C.B.E., and mother of Pauline, Antoinette, Carol and Jacqueline. Funeral at St Mary's (old church) Stoke Newington Church Street, on Saturday 19th March at 10.45 am. Enquiries to G.F. Cook. (071) 485-4480.

DEATHS

PARIS - On March 12th, peacefully in St Richard's Hospital, Chichester, Patrick George Paris - aged 86 - much loved husband of Joan, father of Christopher and grandfather of Amanda and Sarah. Flowers to Holland and Son, 3 Jubilee Road, Chichester. Cremation at Chichester Crematorium at noon, March 21st.

PERKINS - On 6th March 1994 peacefully at home in Cambridge Mass., U.S.A. Mary Frances (née Baker Wilbraham), widow of Professor Elliott Perkins.

PERRY - Minnie O.B.E., died peacefully on March 13th 1994. Councillor, London Borough of Barnet 1982-1990. Requiem Mass at Church of Christ The King, Bramley Road, Oakwood, N14, at 11 am service on Thursday March 24th 1994. No flowers at Minnie's special request, but donations gratefully received by and payable to Peter Goodwin at Church of Christ The King, for the shared benefit of The Mentally Handicapped (Chicken Shed Theatre) and The Monies New Monastery. R.I.P.

PETHICK - On Monday March 14th, peacefully at home, after a long illness bravely borne, Denise, much loved mother and grandmother. Funeral, Thursday March 17th at 11.30 am, Mortlake Crematorium.

PETTY - Helena (Hélène), on March 14th in hospital in her 92nd year, peacefully after a long illness borne with great fortitude. Widow of Hugh, dearly loved mother of Richard and Peter who predeceased her, sister of Mary and Charles. Grandmother of Simon, Hamish, Charlotte, Hugo, Beatrice and William. Service at St Anne's Church, Alderney, on Thursday March 17th at 2 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the R.N.L.I. c/o T.S.B. Victoria Street, Alderney, Channel Islands.

STANLEY - Leslie, dear husband of Lenorah (Nonnie). Peacefully in hospital, after a short illness. Already missed by his wife, children, stepchildren and 11 grandchildren. A Memorial Service will be held later. Donations if desired to The Children's Leukaemia Trust, 26-31 Moorgate, London EC2R 6AR.

DEATHS

STRACHAN - On 14th March Walter Strachan of Bishop's Stortford, father of Jean and Geoffrey, father-in-law of Allan and Susan, grandfather of Clare, Paul, Alison and Simon, great-grandfather of Thomas and Dexter, died peacefully after a short illness. He was 91. There will be a memorial celebration of his life and work this summer. For details please write to the family.

TOSH - On March 11th, peacefully, Molly, beloved wife of the late Tom, much loved mother of Carole and Neil and dear grandmother of Samantha, Emma, Lucy, Daniel, James, Henry and Alexander. Funeral Service at Shirley Methodist Church, Croydon, on Monday March 21st at 11 am. Donations, if desired, to Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

TUDOR - Margaret on 13th March 1994, peacefully in her sleep, dear sister aged 86. Funeral Service on Tuesday March 22nd at 2 pm at Aldeburgh Parish Church, Suffolk, followed by cremation. Family flowers only, if desired donations to R.N.L.I. Aldeburgh Branch, Poole, Dorset BH15 1HZ. All enquiries to Tony Browne Funeral Service, Saxmundham, Suffolk. tel: (0728) 603108.

TURNBULL - On March 11th John James, M.C., aged 84 years in Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead. Dearly loved by family and friends. Funeral Monday March 21st, 11.45am, Golders Green Crematorium.

WADE - On March 12th 1994, peacefully, Kathleen Frances, aged 94 years, Girton 1919-1922 Head Mistress Portsmouth Northern Secondary School 1931-1940 and Wimbledon County (Grammar) School 1940-1964. Funeral Service on March 22nd at 11.30 am at Holy Trinity Church, Westcott, Dorking. Flowers or, if wished, donations for Holy Trinity Church Building Extension Fund may be sent to Sherlock & Sons, Trefis House, Dorking.

WALKER - On March 15th, Audrey Grace Walker, née Lawrance, peacefully at Ker Maria Nursing Home, Princes Risborough, Bucks. Beloved wife of Oliver and mother of Robin and Hilary. Private cremation. Memorial Service to be arranged.

DEATHS

WALTON - On Sunday March 13th 1994, peacefully at home after a long illness cheerfully and bravely borne, Rosemary Ann, beloved wife of John and much loved and wonderful mother of Mark, Anthony and Tim. Funeral Service at Mayfield Church, Somerset, at 11.30 am on Thursday 17th March 1994. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, direct to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

WARNES - On March 14th 1994 after a short illness, Dr. Geoffrey Warnes aged 62 years, of Nuwara Eliya House, Ilkley, West Yorkshire. Funeral Service and cremation to take place at Nab Wood Crematorium, Shipley, West Yorkshire, on Thursday March 17th at 12 noon. Friends please meet at the crematorium and no flowers please by request.

WHITBY - On March 14th, suddenly at home, Mabel Howson, in her 99th year. Beloved wife of the late Montague James Boyce Whitby and adored mother of Christian. Funeral Service at 2.20 pm on Tuesday March 22nd at Worthing Crematorium. Enquiries to H.D. Tribe Ltd., 289 Goring Road, Goring, Worthing. tel: (0903) 249913.

WILLSON - (Ganaba, Co. Tipperary) on March 12th (suddenly) Major James Latimer Willson D.S.O. beloved husband of Mary and father of Simon, the late Jacqueline and Nicholas, Nicole, Georgina and by his grandchildren and family. Donations if wished to Cystic Fibrosis Society. Funeral has already taken place.

WILSON - On 11th March 1994, peacefully in hospital in Wimbledon, C. Derek, aged 83, formerly of Worthing and previously of Balmer Lawrie & Co., Calcutta. Funeral Service at 12 noon on Friday 18th March at Durrington Cemetery, Worthing. Family flowers only - donations, if desired, to The Imperial Cancer Research Fund, 44 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

FLEET - Dr. Howard Martin. A Memorial Service will be held on June 10th at 2 pm, St Mary's Church, Amersham, Bucks.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

CRACKNELL - In ever loving memory of Freda, dearly beloved first wife of Desmond and mother of Valerie, Vivienne, Roger and Victor, who passed away on March 16th 1980. Our brave, brave 'was one', now safe in the arms of God.

HUTT - Rosemary, died March 16th 1992. In loving memory and always in our thoughts. David, Rosamund, Tilly, Juliet and all her family.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CHAPMAN - Blanche Edith. The family would like to thank all the many friends for the very generous donations to the Marie Curie Foundation following their recent and loss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GLYNDEBOURNE Prize draw for Concerts. Prizewinners: 1st Mr R P Renwick, London, N12.

OBITUARIES

SALLY BELFRAGE

Sally Belfrage, author, died in London from cancer on March 14 aged 57. She was born in California on October 4, 1936.

SALLY BELFRAGE's life closed as she was still correcting the galley proofs of her autobiography, to be published in America later this year. It should throw some light on how this utterly rational and liberal Anglo-American writer survived being a child and victim of the McCarthyite era without bitterness, and with the undamaged optimism about human nature which lights up all her four extraordinary published books.

She chose to write about events and parts of the world which involved extreme political and personal conflicts — living in Soviet Russia at the height of the Cold War; Mississippi's black consciousness campaign in the early 1960s; the Protestant as well as Catholic working-class communities of Belfast. Yet she always did so with the wryest of good humour and an observation of ordinary people that precluded moralising. It made her an exceptional reporter as well as a most readable one.

Sally Mary Caroline Belfrage was born in Hollywood of English parents, both writers. Her mother, Molly Castle, had co-founded the William Hickey column in the *Daily Express* with Tom Driberg. Her father, Cedric Belfrage, was a successful journalist and film writer, who was closely and passionately associated with the American left. As work and income became harder to find, and his marriage failed, he moved with Sally to the Bronx where she went to the famous High School of Science, and then to Hunter College. She became engaged to a young West Point officer cadet.

At this moment, in 1955, her father was deported as an alleged Communist, and she retreated with him to London (the ex-fiancé went on to become one of the Pentagon's senior generals in charge of "Star Wars").

Encouraged by her father, she travelled the next year to the Soviet Union as part of the American delegation to the Moscow Youth Festival. With the braver spirits, she went on after the festival to Communist China despite threats of imprisonment from a shocked United States — she was still an American citizen. Returning to Moscow from Peking she decided to stay there. She found a job at the Foreign Languages Publishing House, where she met the runaway British spy, Donald Maclean, and by sheer persistence got a room of her own to live in — a triumph in the Moscow of that time.

After five months she came back to London and — still only just 21 — wrote a bestseller, *A Room in Moscow* (1958), which was published all round the world. It made her an instant celebrity. The British press was predictably obsessed by her contacts with Maclean and Burgess (she refused to sell the pictures of Maclean she had taken at his birthday party the day before she left). But America responded with greater relish to this young adventurer's story. She was flown to New York for a coast-to-coast interview with Mike Wallace; Dorothy Parker gave a party for her; Eleanor Roosevelt requested her presence. Theodore White endorsed her book as "a gem of perceptive reporting".

It was Mrs Roosevelt who encouraged her next venture — a year in the Middle East, moving between Israel and Egypt, Jordan and Syria. She never wrote about it, finding her emotions too engaged. She came back temporarily married to the son of one of the great Palestinian families of Jerusalem — in order to let him acquire an American passport.

She returned to New York, by now an object of fascination to the US security services. (It gave her amusement to show the vast dossier she obtained from the FBI 20 years later under the Freedom of Information Act — hundreds of pages of agents' reports in which everything except date and location was blacked out, unless there was some salacious comment on her private life left in to irritate.)

She spent the summer of 1963 in Mississippi as a volunteer with Stokeley Carmichael's black voter-registration campaign which was leading the challenge to Southern white racism. This was the most dangerous of her self-awarded assignments — a number of civil rights workers were murdered that year. But it produced probably her best book, *Freedom Summer* (1965), which looks forward to the immense changes that have since transformed the Deep South.

In 1965 she married Bernard Pomerance, a young New York writer who was to achieve his own fame with his play *The Elephant Man*. They moved to London with their two children. After they separated (they later divorced), she wrote two more books: *Flowers of Emptiness* (1981), for which she went to India to join some of her women friends in Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh's community at Poona. She took the egregious guru at face value, but produced a perceptive while extremely funny critique of his orange-clothed *ashram*.

Her last major challenge was Northern Ireland. She spent many months immersed in the proletarian communities of Belfast, both Protestant and Catholic. In *The Crack* (1987), the book in which she recorded the pathos as well as the toughness of Ulster's sectarian battles, she bravely insisted on showing the vested interests so many people now have in continuing the conflict.

It was not just her courage, as well as a complete lack of snobbery, which allowed her to enter the intimate lives of so many different people and communities around the world: Sally Belfrage was immensely attractive and was pursued and loved by many people. She was an active participant in the women's movement, and was one of the group of close friends who supported the late Jill Tweedie during her final illness last year. Immediately afterwards, at Christmas, she found she had incurable cancer herself.

She is survived by a son and daughter from her marriage to Bernard Pomerance.

PAUL VINCZE

Paul Vincze, medallist, died in Magagnosc, France, on March 5 aged 86. He was born in Hungary on August 15, 1907.

PAUL VINCZE was one of the most original and artistic medal-makers of his generation although, working from his small studio in Chelsea, he preferred to give the impression of being no more than a craftsman. In fact, he was as meticulous about his work as he was prolific, and his commemorative pieces sold equally well to art collectors as to coin and medal enthusiasts.

Vincze had a portrait painter's fastidious eye, insisting on long sittings with his living subjects (Yehudi Menuhin, the Aga Khan, Winston Churchill and Harry Truman among them) and a classical sculptor's approach to the human form. In a series of medals depicting scenes from Shakespeare's plays, Vincze showed muscular, three-dimensional figures locked into strenuous poses. In his *Mayflower II* medallion of 1957, America's founding fathers were stripped to the waist and involved in back-breaking manual tasks.

Success came gratifyingly early to Vincze, who liked to say that he had become a famous medallist first and only subsequently learnt his craft. He was born in Hungary into an artistic family, the son of a Jewish father and Roman Catholic mother, and studied at the High School of Arts and Crafts in Budapest.

An early interest in sculpture led him to the studio of E. Telcs, one of the school's great medallists and teachers. Vincze stayed there for seven years before summoning up the courage to submit one of his medals for an external competition. Even then he did not tell Telcs, a severe man whom he assumed would disapprove of any haste for public recognition. But Telcs, it transpired, was on the competition's judging panel and wholeheartedly endorsed Vincze's decision to enter, though he felt obliged to stand down from the marking because of his interest. Vincze's medal went on to win first prize.

From then on his rise to fame was relatively smooth. In 1935 he won a travelling scholarship to Rome, where his work took on a classical influence, and two years later left for England (he subsequently became a British citizen). During the war he worked at Aldershot, learning the practical aspects of medal production.

Vincze was a jovial man, and liked to talk to his sitters while working. But he could always be relied upon for discretion. One of his first commissions, in 1952, was to cast a commemorative medal for President Truman. Truman ordered Vincze to inscribe 250 of these, for friends, with the dates of his presidency — 1945-52 — thus making Vincze one of the few privy to the information that he did not intend to stand for a third term in the forthcoming elections. The following year Vincze designed one of the six medals for the Queen's Coronation.

Though many of his pieces were produced in Britain through the royal medallists, Spink and Son, examples of his designs appeared all over the world. He cast the official medal to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth in 1964 — showing a rather more stern and serious Shakespeare than normally appears in his pictures. He produced commemorative medals for Dickens, Beethoven, Haydn, Florence Nightingale and J. B. Priestley, and the official seal for the Ghana government.

He designed currency coins for Libya, Guatemala, Guinea, Ghana, Nigeria, Malawi and Guernsey. For the *Daily Mirror* at its old headquarters in Holborn, he produced portrait tablets of Cecil H. King, Lord Cudlipp and Harry Bartholomew.

He is survived by his French wife, Emilienne "Betty" Chauzeix, whom he married in 1958. After their marriage, Vincze spent more time in France and finally moved permanently to a studio overlooking the Mediterranean at Magagnosc, near Nice.

Paul Vincze with a plaster cast of the Queen's head at the production stage of his Coronation medal

EVELYN NIGHTINGALE

Evelyn Nightingale, the first wife of Evelyn Waugh, died on March 11 aged 90. She was born on September 27, 1903.

IN RECENT years Evelyn Nightingale was often asked by writers and television producers for her memories of the novelist Evelyn Waugh. These were approaches she found distressing and, though she did have a brief conversation with one biographer, Martin Stannard, she resisted them. For her, the marriage reflected the extreme immaturity of both partners. Since it lasted barely more than a year, and was over nearly 65 years ago, it may certainly be regarded as a very brief episode in a very long life.

She was born Evelyn Gardner, by some years the youngest of four sisters. Her father was the first (and last) Lord Burghclere, a prominent Liberal politician who became President of the Board of Agriculture; her mother was the eldest daughter of the fourth Earl of Carnarvon and the sister of the famous Egyptologist.

Her childhood was lonely, since she was educated at home by a series of governesses, and lacking in the warmth a later generation would expect. She spent much of her time with the family servants, regarding them as "my greatest friends". She was especially devoted to her nanny, and was devastated when she was dismissed when Evelyn was only seven.

Since her upbringing was also strict — even as a young woman she was forbidden to venture out of the rectangle bounded by Piccadilly, Oxford Street, Bond Street and Park Lane — the liberation that came with her own — and the century's — mid-twenties was unusually heady. During this period she shared a London flat with Lady Pansy Pakenham, worked as a social worker in the Edinburgh slums, and, though she later reverted to her Liberal roots, was sufficiently moved by the speeches of Philip Snowden and Willie Graham to become a Labour Party supporter.

Her friends also included Nancy Mitford, Anthony Powell and, of course, Evelyn Waugh. She accepted his somewhat unorthodox proposal ("We'll see how it goes") in 1928, but the marriage soon ran into difficulties, and broke down when she fell in love with the BBC producer who was to become her second husband, John Heygate. Waugh took his revenge in *A Handful of Dust*, a book she never read. In fact, the figure he allegedly based on her — Brenda Last, who is relieved to find it is her son, not her lover, who is killed in an accident — was a particularly bizarre travesty of her character. It was often remarked how exceptionally close she was both to Benedict and Virginia, her two children by her third marriage, to the late Ronald Nightingale.

Since the mid-1930s she lived quietly in rural Kent and, more recently, East Sussex. She was a devout Anglican, a strong supporter of the Liberal Democrats, and a great lover of gardens and gardening. Her passions also included poetry, Habsburg history and cricket. Those whose opinions had been formed by certain of Waugh's biographers were invariably taken aback by the kindly, gentle, humorous person they actually met.

F. W. STERNFELD

Frederick William Sternfeld, musicologist, has died aged 79. He was born on September 25, 1914.

WITH the death of F. W. Sternfeld British musical scholarship has lost one of its most distinguished voices. A man of exceptionally broad interests, his published articles ranged from antiquity to the present day, demonstrating a particular fascination for the relationship of music to the other arts and to intellectual history in general.

His first book, *Goethe and Music* (1954), was a brilliant demonstration of the importance of musical parody in Goethe's poetry and represented one of the most significant contributions to Goethe studies at the time. Its intellectual clarity and rigorous scholarship set the tone for his next major publication, *Music in Shakespearean Tragedy* (1963), which likewise represented the culmination of many years' work and thought: indeed, Sternfeld himself was fond of telling how, as a schoolboy in Vienna, he had first read the complete works (in English) while confined to bed with rheumatic fever. Forty years on, he was to provide a characteristically sensitive assessment of music's dramatic function within the tragedies.

His final book, *The Birth of Opera* (1993), was much delayed by illness, though the opportunity which this long gestation gave for measured judgment was perhaps some small compensation for the severe difficulties which he endured. It is a magisterial work, treating not just issues of music history, but of Classical literature and scholarship, stage history, Italian vernacular drama, and much else besides. Already it has begun to assume a seminal importance in its field.

Frederick William Sternfeld was born in Vienna and

attended university there, where his teachers included Robert Lach and Egon Wellesz. He also spent extended periods at Cambridge, studying with Edward Dent. In 1938 he emigrated to the United States, completing his doctorate at Yale under Leo Schrade in 1943.

After teaching at Wesleyan University and Dartmouth College, in 1956 he joined the Faculty of Music at Oxford, being promoted to Reader in 1972. From 1965 he was a fellow of Exeter College. Among the many external offices he held were those of founder-editor of *Renaissance News* (1946-54) and editor of the *Proceedings of the Royal Musical Association* (1957-62), of which organisation he was a much valued vice-president.

As a teacher, Sternfeld enjoyed a legendary reputation. Nobody who was taught by him, or heard him lecture in his inimitable Austrian-American accent, could lightly forget the experience, or would wish to. In turn witty, incisive and shrewd, he communicated not only his deep understanding of the music of so many different periods, but also his captivating enthusiasm for it. Tutorials and lectures would often he enlivened by anecdotes concerning composers of his acquaintance, including Richard Strauss, Stravinsky and Copland, or the rich musical life of his schoolboy Vienna, serving not only to entertain, but also to convey a vivid sense of the continuity of musical and scholarly tradition.

In all his endeavours, Sternfeld was ably encouraged by his devoted wife Sophia, who predeceased him by only a few months. Her wise counsel and practical support were fundamental to his achievements; together they were a delightful couple, whose friendship and hospitality were extended to students, colleagues and scholars from around the world.

ON THIS DAY

March 16 1885

A 2,000-word notice described the first performance of Mikado *or* The Town of Titipu. *This, the most popular of the Savoy operas, ran for over two years. G and S are said to have made £30,000 each from it.*

THE MIKADO

After the production of *Princess Ida* rumour would have it that the joint authors, Mr. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan, were alive to the necessity of turning over, as it were, a new leaf, and that their next venture would be of a different type, less farcical, more psychologically subtle, more serious in fact, albeit still humorous. There was a certain amount of unfairness, not to say ingratitude for much harmless amusement received in such a supposition. A writer and a composer generally know best what they can do best, both conjointly and separately; and it may be safely assumed that, if Mr. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan thought their united strength to lie in serious or even serio-comic work, they would have undertaken such work long before a certain feeling of monotony and tedium had begun to attach to their *concetti* and verbal quibbles and pretty tunes. However this may be, certain it is that *The Mikado*, the new operetta produced at the Savoy Theatre on Saturday evening, does not in any marked degree differ from its numerous predecessors. All the elements which have gone to the making of many successes, and which by this time might be expressed by a mathematical formula of $a + b - c$ without a single unknown quantity of x or y in the equation, are present. We have a comic monarch and a "bloated oligarch", and no end of Court officials and simpering maidens, whose little life is rounded by the vision of a handsome lover and a becoming frock. These people sing sentimental and comic ditties, and "patter songs" with "topical" allusions to the Japanese village in Knightsbridge and the present Ministry, after the approved fashion: they likewise ogle and flirt and attitudinize, and Mr. Grossmith dances a breakdown. The characters, or at least the types in the drama, are the same although they wear their clothes with a difference. The robes of the British peers in *Iolanthe* have been exchanged from the flowing draperies of Daimios, the academic gowns of Princess Ida's fellow-collegiates have been laid aside for tight skirts, long sleeves, and the curious bustle which is in reality a shawl which Japanese ladies unfold and sit upon. Let it be acknowledged at once that these dresses are as gorgeous and exquisitely coloured as they are scrupulously correct that they are worn, moreover, by the actors and actresses with an ease and propriety little short of marvellous.

It is a pity that the illusion thus carefully prepared by the costumier and the scene painter is not in any sense kept up by the author. No attempt has been made to mingle the slightest infusion of Eastern imagery or quaintness with the dialogue or the lyrics, which run throughout in the well-worn grooves of burlesque. Much additional fun might have been derived from such intermixture, which Mr. Gilbert would have been quite capable of accomplishing if so minded. He has, however, preferred not to tax the perception of his admirers by new ingredients, and the composer has followed his example. Sir Arthur Sullivan ignores the pentatonic scale and the minor keys (without a leading note) affected by the musicians of Japan . . .

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Steven Barnett predicts severe hold-ups ahead on the much-vaunted Information Superhighway — if it ever gets built, that is

Media 2000: communicopia or pie in the sky?

Everyone has their own word for it. First it was Convergence, which soon became Multimedia. Then Bill Clinton weighed in with the Information Superhighway. Now Goldman Sachs has proudly coined the term Communicopia.

It's all about television merging with computers and telephones in a new digital transmission system that will turn our living rooms into shopping centres, museums, amusement arcades, libraries, cinemas or sports arenas. You name it, your television set will do it. It is a technological miracle which will transform our conventional media habits and ultimately send the newspaper into oblivion. At least, that's what we're hearing.

But hang on a minute. Haven't we been here before? Rewind to 1982, when Kenneth Baker was minister for information and technology and offered his vision for the next ten years: "By the end of the decade multi-channel cable television will be commonplace in-home countrywide — TV will be used for armchair shopping, banking, calling emergency services and many other services." Channel 4 started in the same year, and was dismissed as the last relic of a bygone age.

By the beginning of this year, 600,000 homes (out of 23 million) were connected to cable. And Channel 4 is flourishing.

In the late Eighties, it was satellite: different technology, same reaction. Here was another breakthrough which would within five years revolutionise our viewing lives and finally condemn to death the old-fashioned, four-channel system. In 1989, Saatchis forecast more than seven million dish-homes by 1995. We won't even reach half that number.

Now there's multimedia, and the euphoria starts again. It's true that in some ways it really *is* different this time, not least because squillions of pounds of investment are being poured into areas such as video-on-demand and digital compression. What will be on offer within the next ten years is nothing to do with traditional TV programmes, but an array of information and entertainment "experiences" accessed through the TV set.

But we should remember the two false dawns we have already seen and exercise a little realism. There are three very good reasons why the in-home digital revolution will be a lot slower than some of the hype suggests.

The first is cost. Existing TV sets will need to be replaced, receivers and link-ups installed. The capital expenditure may not be vast compared to what we spend on cars or holidays, but amid the optimism of economic recovery we should bear in mind the number of people with very limited disposable incomes. Over a third of households have an income of less than £200 a week, which is not a budget that allows for excessive spending sprees on new-fangled inventions.

This is important, because we are not talking about a simple one-off purchase. Traditional television is like one of those meals where you pay a fixed amount to eat as much as you can handle: in TV terms, after an initial outlay for TV set and licence, consumption is free and unlimited. New media will be much more à la carte, with prices to match. It will be too expensive for many people.

Second, there is the problem of confidence. New technology can be very intimidating, and many prospective buyers find it difficult to get to grips with the widgets, instructions and menus that are an inevitable part of most new media gadgetry. "User-friendly" may have been an Eighties buzzword, but some consumers still find the humble VCR as user-friendly as a rottweiler. Henley's own research shows that only half the population feel "very confident" about recording a TV programme a week in advance.

Finally, there is sheer indifference. Some punters are as rich as Croesus and can programme videos in their sleep, but are simply not interested in the latest techno-wheeze. With any unfamiliar product, Luddite mentality tends to decline as even the most obdurate realise the genuine benefits available. But it takes time — several years — to overcome some people's instinctive reluctance to take up the latest craze.

The danger, as always, is to assume that because it's there people will want it. It didn't happen with cable first time around, nor with satellite five years ago. So don't be surprised if the media world in five and even ten years' time looks uncannily similar to today.

● *Steven Barnett is director of the Henley Centre's Media Futures research programme.*

The satellite TV dish total falls far short of Eighties forecasts

Here is the good morning news

More than two million Britons are waking up to ITV's breakfast GMTV. **Alexandra Frean** tunes in

In less than four weeks GMTV, ITV's breakfast television service, has boosted the adult audience for its early morning output by 10 per cent. Suddenly someone appears to be doing something right.

No one is more surprised by the speed and extent of the ratings rise than Peter McHugh, GMTV's director of programmes. Mr McHugh contracted out the first hour of GMTV's programming — from 6am to 7am — to Reuters Television on February 21, with a view to moving away from the sofa-bound chatter that has been the station's hallmark towards satisfying a growing appetite among early-risers for more "hard" news.

Virtually overnight, GMTV's average reach in its first hour grew by 200,000 adults, to 1.2 million a day. At the same time, the proportion of its audience in the ABC1 socio-economic groups increased by 11 per cent to give it 53 per cent of all ABC1s watching television at that time. Surprisingly, perhaps, the BBC's seemingly more serious *Breakfast News* captures only 41 per cent of ABC1 adults in that hour.

The Reuters 6am *Newshour* has been so successful that Mr McHugh is already promising a similar shift of emphasis throughout the rest of the programme. With a peak audience now regularly touching 2.1 million (compared to 1.5 million each for BBC1's *Breakfast News* and Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast*), TV-am's 2.5 million peak seems to be within GMTV's grasp.

To the sceptics who still believe that television during daylight hours will never catch on with the majority of grown-ups, Mr McHugh points out that GMTV now has a weekly reach of more than 16 million people — considerably more, for example, than BBC Radio 4's agenda-setting *Today* programme, which has a weekly reach of six million.

"Within the next few years, you can expect the majority of people in this country to get their morning news from television rather than radio," Mr McHugh says.

> ❛ We came into this as new kids on the block, and tailor-make our output ❜

GMTV still has a lot to put right, however, before it can even dream of achieving that goal. Since it took over ITV's breakfast franchise from TV-am in January 1993, GMTV has been beset by presentational problems and financial worries. Its first female presenter, Fiona Armstrong, left after only a few months, hounded by accusations that she simply did not have enough of the F (for Fanciability) factor. The programme was also criticised by the Independent Television Commission last year for under-running its news bulletins.

Faced with annual Treasury payments of £34.6 million and a depressed advertising market, the company made a loss of £10.5 million in its first year.

GMTV is now expected to report a profit in 1994, following a pick-up in advertising revenue. According to Zenith Media, the largest buyer of television advertising airtime in the UK, its advertising revenue will grow from £64 last year to £69 million in 1994. Since the *Newshour* was introduced in February the Nationwide building society and British Telecom have both signed up with GMTV.

In editorial matters, Mr McHugh is aiming to make GMTV a television cross between the mid-market *Daily Mail* and a broadsheet newspaper. At present, the relentless cheerfulness of its main presenters Lorraine Kelly and Eamonn Holmes, and the preponderance of interviews with minor celebrities, often make it seem more like a hybrid version of *Hello!* and the tabloid press. Mr McHugh must attract new viewers without alienating his existing core audience.

In future there will be more foreign news and more live reports from the scenes of major events or breaking stories. There will also be a greater emphasis on so-called "serious" subjects, such as business and the City. This will be in strictly "user-friendly" ways, such as explaining how the performance of shares affects private investors.

Henry Clark, managing editor of GMTV/Reuters Television, believes that the Reuters culture will contribute to the station's new image. Although it is the world's biggest news agency and has been providing GMTV's news bulletins since the station was launched, Reuters is still a relative newcomer to programme-making.

"We came into this as new kids on the block. Unlike the other big television news organisations, which are collecting material for broadcast at different times throughout the whole day, we are focused on tailor-making our output for the breakfast audience," Mr Clark says.

In a wider context, GMTV's slow metamorphosis highlights a widely overlooked phenomenon of breakfast television, which many said would never take off in Britain. Not only does it appear to be one of the ripest areas for audience growth on British terrestrial television, but it is also one of the few areas where viewers have a genuine choice between the BBC's news-based *Breakfast News*, GMTV's issue and personality-led reporting, and Channel 4's chaotic, youth-oriented *The Big Breakfast*.

MAURO CARRARO

GMTV on air: top, Penny Smith and Michael Wilson on the "hard news" Reuters *Newshour*; above, the relentlessly cheerful Eamonn Holmes and Lorraine Kelly

BREAKFAST TV VIEWING FIGURES

	GMTV	CHANNEL 4 (millions of viewers)	BBC1
Audience peak	2.1	1.5	1.5
Daily reach	6.1	4.0	5.4
7-day reach	16.4	12.1	14.1
6am-7am (average)*	1.2	NA	0.7

* week ending March 6 1994
Source: BARB, week ending February 20 1994

Now it's hip for teens to be square

Today's cautious youth want quality from their products — and advertisers

What is happening to youth culture? Anyone watching *Absolutely Fabulous*, with its drug-crazed, drunken and permanently rebellious mother, and its studious, serious and sober daughter, could be forgiven for wondering. Like the programme itself, this caricature of today's youth is over the top. But there's enough truth in it to herald the overturning of a long-established marketing apple cart. The great youth rebellion has fizzled out.

From rock 'n' roll, through the hippies to the punks, it has been the traditional wisdom that young people in the West rebel. Not any more. A long and cruel recession has crushed the up-and-coming generation's confidence and narrowed its ambitions. Teenagers' goals nowadays "focus on securing a job that will at least provide some financial security, on having a home and a family", concludes Research International (RI), after a 27-country study of attitudes among 13 to 18-year-olds.

The "global village" in which teenagers have been brought up has made this generation world-weary before its time. It is painfully aware of world problems like mass starvation, environmental damage, Aids, and war. But far from taking to the streets in protest, it feels overwhelmed by it all.

Youthful idealism is out. A new introversion is taking over. Most teenagers are "retreating into their shells", in an effort to create a safe, stable, "micro-world".

Marketers are struggling to come to terms with this change, because the under-20s are crucial to them. Vast industries such as music and fashion depend on their custom, and that shows no signs of changing. Other industries — newspapers and shampoos, for example — know it is vital to catch the next generation's loyalty while they are still young.

But the younger generation is notoriously hard to target. Sex and class differences are as pronounced here as in any other part of the population, and the differences between 13, 16 and 19-year-olds can seem as big as the gap between 20, 30 and 40.

One attitude unites them, however. They are, says Sega UK marketing director Simon Morris, "incredibly marketing literate. They know the game we are playing, and they are very cynical." Brent Gosling, an account planner at Ogilvy & Mather, agrees. He won an award for his advertising campaign for Golden Wonder's Niknaks, which targets teenage boys. Young people, he says, "have an inside track on everything marketers try to do".

Result? The great new discovery in youth marketing: honesty. "The old-fashioned way of selling — these jeans will make you sexy, that bank account will help you have a great time — just doesn't work with kids," says Mr Gosling. It doesn't work for "older youth" either, says James Diakiw, marketing director at Labatt Breweries. "It is quality, integrity, genuineness, and authenticity that count," he says.

If that sounds rather like the older generation, it is. But there is a difference. Marketing-literate teenagers of today also look for excellent marketing. Research conducted by Scottish advertising agency, The Leith Agency, shows that teenagers judge advertising as a product in its own right. To pass muster, it has to be distinctive, clever and original, with excellent production values. If teenagers like the advertising, then they are prepared to like the brand.

Which is why, despite the collapse of the teenage rebellion, marketing to youth remains a speciality. One example: research for Pepe Jeans reveals that UK teenagers' top three priorities in life are health, a happy family, and money. But Mark Blenkinsop, European marketing director, points out that "if you tell a 16-year-old or 19-year-old that he's not rebellious enough, he'll punch you in the face".

How to reconcile the two? Well, we've have had household paints with a hint of peach, and mineral waters with a hint of lemon. Now, Pepe Jeans' new European advertising campaign features "youth advertising" — complete with what Mr Blenkinsop calls "a hint of rebellious attitude".

ALAN MITCHELL

Hard to target: Julia Sawalha, of *Absolutely Fabulous*

Niknaks: honesty is the best advertising policy

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Independent goes back on the offensive

Cutting the price could be a first strike for a reshaped *Independent*

With Andreas Whittam Smith again in the editor's chair, and David Montgomery, chief executive of Mirror Group Newspapers, occupying a crucial role on the board (the driving seat?), the new owners of *The Independent* will this week start trying to recover the sense of editorial adventure that once made Britain's newest quality paper the most exciting story in Fleet Street instead of the most depressing.

Once *The Independent on Sunday* was launched into a recession in 1990, that sense of excitement quickly faded. Sales started slipping as the founders' single-minded concentration on the daily paper — which had been threatening to overtake both *The Times* and *The Guardian* — was dissipated.

Since then, as the chart at right shows, both *The Times* and *The Guardian* have streaked ahead of *The Independent*, which was also overtaken last month by *The Financial Times*.

Whittam Smith will be chairman of the newly constituted main board. With Montgomery and the Spanish and Italian investors, who intend to devote more time to their two British papers, he now has millions to spend on the editorial content of the papers. He should also save millions from the new arrangements for advertising, printing and distribution. More savings will accrue when *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday* move to rent-free Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

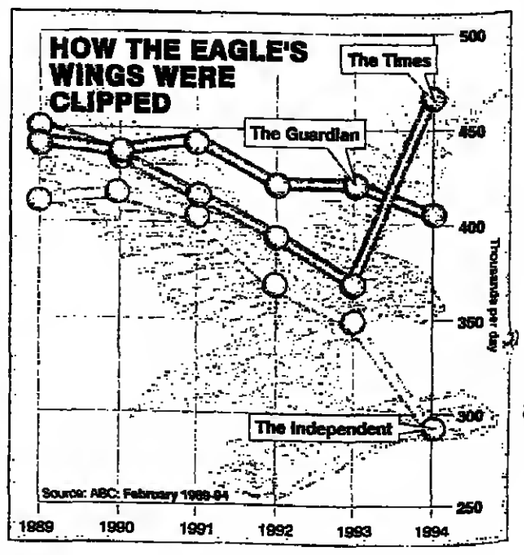
They are going to need those savings if they are to carry the battle to *The Times*, now 175,000 ahead, and *The Guardian*, more than 110,000 ahead.

The owners of both papers have shown that they are prepared to invest in new editorial developments rather than allow *The Independent* to become again the threat it was becoming in 1989. *The Times* has invested millions in its pricing strategy, and *The Guardian* has one of the smartest marketing departments in Fleet Street.

As sales over the past six months demonstrate, newspaper buyers are increasingly sensitive to cover prices. Since The Times reduced its weekday price to 30p, sales of The Independent have fallen by 40,000 against a rise of 120,000 for The Times. So one item high on the agenda of the new board will be whether to cut the price, which was increased by 5p to 50p last autumn.

As the *Daily Mirror*, *Sunday Mirror*, *The People* and *Sporting Life* join *The Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Telegraph* at Canary Wharf this week, followed soon by *The Independent* and *The Independent on Sunday*, the mighty tower will be home to the biggest concentration of journalists since newspapers left Fleet Street in 1986.

BRIAN MACARTHUR



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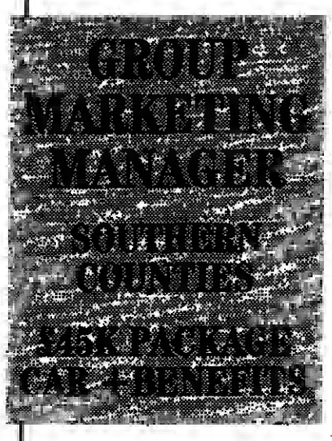

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NEWS

Tories split over Brussels power

■ John Major faced a new Conservative split on Europe as Douglas Hurd fought to prevent a weakening of Britain's voting strength in the European Union.

The Foreign Secretary was under attack from all sides in Brussels as EU ministers argued over how voting arrangements should be adjusted when four new countries join the union. Only Spain lined up with Britain in opposing the suggested changes ..... Pages 1, 15

Small Rover shareholders outvoted

■ The £800 million sale of Rover to BMW was approved after institutional investors combined to overwhelm the protests of small shareholders. At the end of a stormy meeting, the board of British Aerospace, Rover's parent company, had to call a poll when the deal was blocked on a show of hands ..... Page 1

SAS honour

A former SAS commander, General Sir Charles Guthrie, has been made Chief of the General Staff as part of the knock-on effect of the resignation of Sir Peter Harding ..... Page 1

Security alert

John Major called together senior ministers at the forefront of the battle against terrorism as he came under renewed pressure to intensify security ..... Pages 1, 11

Missing bomb

An IRA bomb discovered close to a Kent commuter rail line is believed to have been planted months ago but missed during security alerts ..... Page 2

Midwives' anger

Two midwives who helped a woman to have a water birth at home have lost their appeal against disciplinary action, prompting angry claims that it made a mockery of giving women more choice ..... Page 3

Verbal rival

Talk Radio UK, which aims to break the BBC's grip on talk programmes, has made a £3.8 million cash offer for the licence to run Britain's third national commercial network ..... Page 4

Cautions to be cut

The number of cautions given to offenders is likely to drop by 15 per cent as a result of stricter Home Office guidelines ... Page 5

Seat-belt risk

Parents are risking the lives of thousands of children on the daily school run because they are not belted into car-seats ..... Page 7

More women priests

As ten more women were ordained to the Church of England a senior churchman announced his resignation and the Vatican declared that women's ordination had cast a shadow over agreements ..... Page 9

Sunday betting

The Government is planning a boost for the racing industry by giving MPs the opportunity to vote to allow betting on Sundays ..... Page 10

Parking curbs

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, stepped up his campaign against the growth of the car by signalling tough new restrictions on parking ..... Page 11

Mandela acclaimed

Amid scenes of jubilation with thousands crowding the streets, Nelson Mandela, president of the African National Congress, was hailed as a conquering hero in the Bophuthatswana capital Page 14

Bosnia setback

An offer by Serbs to relinquish 16 per cent of Bosnian territory falls far short of the amount demanded by President Izetbegovic of Bosnia and the Croat-Muslim federation ..... Page 15

Alien dogs glimpse a new enemy

■ The last husky dogs to leave Antarctica caught their first glimpse of urban life. The 13 huskies have been forced to leave by a treaty banning all alien species. On their flight to a new home in Hudson Bay, Canada, they stepped onto the tarmac at Heathrow, sniffed the London air and caught sight of a cat being carried into quarantine ..... Page 1

IAN STEWART

On the first day of Cheltenham, punters keep an anxious eye on the runners. Flakey Dove won the Champion Hurdle. Pages 44, 45, 48

BUSINESS

Economy: Leading ministers from the world's richest countries agreed a set of economic principles aimed at cutting unemployment as the first world summit on jobs came to a close ..... Page 25

Saatchi: The world's second biggest advertising agency bounced back from losses of nearly £600 million in 1992 to a pre-tax profit of £19.2 million ..... Page 25

Markets: The FT-SE 100 Index rose 34.0 to 3267.4. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 80.6 to 80.7 after a rise from DM2.5256 to DM2.5306 but a fall from $1.4946 to $1.4914 ..... Page 28

SPORT

Athletics: Jason Livingston, the British sprinter sent home from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics after failing a drugs test, faces a life ban after refusing a test while under suspension ..... Page 48

Football: After one game as part-time coach of Wales, John Toshack was reported to have offered to stand down. Toshack was upset by supporters' reaction to the 3-1 defeat by Norway ..... Page 48

Fishing: On the opening day of the trout season, Brian Clarke casts an experienced eye over the bewildering array of equipment aimed at luring newcomers ..... Page 46

Fickle fashion: The arbiters of the fame business have chosen to transform Yoko Ono from she-devil to pop icon ..... Page 16

Spy extraordinare: Nicholas Elliott loved his job. "It was a sort of club. Such a high proportion of one's colleagues were friends. We called it a marriage bureau". Julia Llewellyn Smith on a former director of MI6 ..... Page 17

Agenda setter: In less than four weeks GMTV, ITV's breakfast service, has boosted the adult audience by 10 per cent ..... Page 22

Goya in all moods: The Royal Academy's superb new exhibition *Goya: The Small Paintings*, which opens tomorrow, shows the great 19th-century Spanish master in all his moods ..... Page 33

Prince of prints: *Perspectives*, the new architectural magazine backed by the Prince of Wales, goes on sale today. Against expectations, says Marcus Binney, its strongest suit is not architecture, but controversies over planning ..... Page 35

Storming Norman: The American soprano Jessye Norman was in glorious voice for the first of her London concerts ..... Page 33

PEOPLE IN THE TIMES

Gillian Clark, who paid £650 to a clinic to ensure that she gave birth to a daughter, has sparked off a row over "designer babies" Page 3

Paul Curry, a fisheries inspector, is bringing new life into what has been Europe's dirtiest river, after a two-year clean-up Page 7

Susan McDougal, former partner of Bill and Hillary Clinton, said that they are victims of a politically-motivated investigation Page 13

THE TIMES TOMORROW

Wild men of letters

■ Peter Ackroyd on John Steinbeck, the Californian visionary; Ian McIntyre on Roald Dahl, the Nordic pied piper; and Woodrow Wyatt on Michael Foot, a seagreen incorruptible

Nemesis for Mickey?

■ How will Mickey Mouse fare against Nemesis, the £10-million white-knuckle ride at Alton Towers?

Spirited stuff

■ "Can it really be Jeremy Irons behind that boot-polish make-up and Latin-American accent?" Geoff Brown on *The House of the Spirits*

A ten-year-old boy throws an Irish village into turmoil when he claims a vision. *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (BBC2, 9pm) ..... Page 47

Back to work

President Clinton is right in believing that cyclical unemployment could be reduced by government and central bank action. .. Page 19

It ain't broke

Local government reforms look likely to be politically damaging and expensive and are not even a response to demand ..... Page 19

Nixon in Russia

Richard Nixon, remembered for his arguments with Khrushchev, is back in Moscow to assess another bombastic Russian politician: Vladimir Zhirinovsky ..... Page 19

SIMON JENKINS

As an example to others, Sir Peter Harding should not have resigned. David Mellor should not have resigned, also as an example to others. Nor should Cecil Parkinson, nor should Tim Yeo, nor should Hartley Booth ..... Page 18

JANET DALEY

People produce children in the old fashioned way for disreputable or selfish reasons: to push someone into marriage or to repair a failing one, or just to enhance their own self-esteem. Are these inclinations made worse when they are helped by science? ..... Page 18

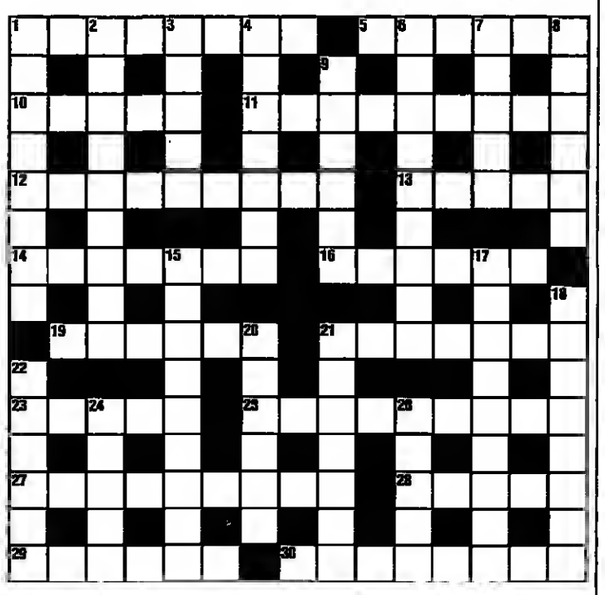
Sally Belfrage, author; **Evelyn Nightingale**, the first wife of Evelyn Waugh; **Frederick William Sternfeld**, musicologist ..... Page 21

Reflections on John Major and cricketer Bertie Buse ..... Page 19

For the first time in several years, New York awaits its St Patrick's Day parade with the law clear from the outset: the Irish Lesbian and Gay Organization excluded ... a cruel message — *New York Times*

Peace carries a whopping price tag. Both the Administration and Congress need to muster the political courage to make some tough budget decisions and make good [UN] obligations — *USA Today*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,491



ACROSS

1 Shyly express reservation going to sea, reportedly (8).
5 Girl holding revolutionary bandage (6).
10 Fine old traveller (5).
11 Dark horse causing upset at twenty to one, perhaps (9).
12 Wire round branch permitting ascent (9).
13 Turner found among rubbish in Genoa (5).
14 Entertainment for members only? (3-4).
16 Slumber in express returning to London area (6).
19 It shows the pressure is round the counter (6).
21 Lively dance to church rhythm (7).
23 Biography right for a long-term prisoner (5).
25 Take a drink before business — it's no joke without it (5-4).
27 Cause damage to boot packed in trunk (9).
28 Do without introduction in approach to rendezvous (5).
29 Outstanding work delivering aid (6).
30 Sad facts admitted by the factory (8).

DOWN

1 Road in quiet surroundings leading to home (8).
2 Heaven-sent matches (9).
3 Entrants to Rugby have one month's break getting into shape (5).
4 Weapon when drawn not to be taken seriously (7).
6 Slogan for a hunter, possibly (9).
7 Retinue remaining when monarch leaves country (5).
8 Limited opening a difficulty holding up viewer (6).
9 Old envelope for note in correspondence (6).
15 Breathe in freely or become torpid (9).
17 Perception shown by one dividing Court award (9).
18 Mount ridden by squadron leader is the most testing (8).
20 Move to make good (6).
21 Screen on occasion used in California (7).
22 Many a swain is found at ease in this (6).
24 Left a new poem for setting up a newspaper edition (5).
26 Bible available in female refuge (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,490

Times Two Crossword, page 48

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouca,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heredfd & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road-works information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Monday: Highest day temp: Marham, Norfolk 17C (63F); lowest day max: Baltasound and Lerwick, Shetland 5C (41F); highest rainfall: Eskdalemuir, Dumfries & Galloway 0.49in; highest sunshine: Herne Bay, Kent 9hr.

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FORECAST

☐ **General:** Much of England and Wales will start bright but chilly, with a touch of frost. It will be a day of sunshine and blustery showers in all parts. The showers will be heavy and frequent in the north and west with snow in places, mainly hilly areas. Southern and eastern districts will have a fair number of showers in the afternoon. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sleet and snow showers, some heavy with drifting in the hills in the strong westerly winds. It will be windy generally and will feel quite cold.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles:** A bright start with sunny spells. Blustery showers later, dying out during the evening. Wind fresh, westerly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **E England, Central N:** Bright with sunny spells, blustery showers later. Mainly dry in the evening. Wind fresh to strong westerly. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **W Midlands, SW England, S Wales:** Sunny spells and showers, heavy and squally. Wind fresh to strong westerly. Max 8C (46F).

☐ **N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** Bright at times, but also frequent squally showers with snow in places, mainly on hills. Wind strong, westerly. Feeling cold. Max 6C to 8C (43F to 46F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Frequent sleet, snow and hail showers, some heavy with drifting in the hills. Wind strong to gale force westerly. Cold, max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** less showery and less windy on Thursday. Rain spreading from the southwest on Friday.

AROUND BRITAIN

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain; h=hail; du=dull; g=gale; sh=shower; b=bright

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	7.5	0.03	10	50	sh	Liverpool	0.9	0.02	12	54	sh
Anglesey	-	0.17	9	48	r	London	6.9	-	15	59	s
Aspatria	1.2	0.03	11	52	r	Lowestoft	6.0	-	17	63	s
Aviemore	4.4	0.46	8	46	sn	Manchester	-	0.13	12	54	sh
Belfast	0.8	0.02	11	52	r	Margate	8.8	-	16	61	s
Birmingham	8.7	-	15	59	s	Minehead	2.9	-	13	55	b
Bognor R	5.8	-	13	55	s	Morecambe	0.5	0.12	9	48	r
Bournem'th	1.3	-	14	57	c	Newcastle	8.2	0.02	13	55	s
Bristol	0.9	-	11	52	d	Newquay	X				
Buxton	0.8	0.06	10	50	sh	Norwich	8.7	-	16	61	s
Cardiff	0.1	-	10	50	c	Nottingham	8.4	-	14	57	s
Clacton	8.3	-	15	59	s	Penzance	0.3	-	12	54	d
Cleethorpes	X					Plymouth	2.0	-	13	55	c
Colwyn Bay	2.3	0.15	14	57	r	Poole	-	-	14	57	c
Cromer	8.5	-	16	61	s	Ross-o-wye	6.0	-	15	59	b
Dunbar	X					Ryde	X				
Eastbourne	3.5	-	11	52	b	Scarborough	1.8	-	13	55	c
Edinburgh	6.5	0.30	11	52	r	Sandown	3.9	-	12	54	s
Eskdalemuir	3.0	0.49	8	46	sh	Saunton Snd	-	-	10	50	c
Exmouth	3.8	-	14	57	b	Scarboro'	6.4	-	13	55	g
Falmouth	X	0.01	12	54	c	Scilly Isles	1.8	-	11	52	b
Folkestone	6.6	-	13	55	b	Shanklin	X	-	12	54	s
Glasgow	4.2	0.40	11	52	sh	Skegness	6.0	-	16	61	b
Guernsey	X					Southport	0.8	-	11	52	sh
Hastings	2.6	-	12	54	c	Southsea	4.0	-	12	54	s
Hayling I.	X					Stornoway	6.3	0.35	7	45	h
Herne Bay	9.0	-	15	59	s	Swanage	7.0	-	12	54	c
Hove	4.1	-	11	52	b	Teignmouth	1.3	-	14	57	c
Hunstanton	4.6	-	13	55	s	Tenby	-	-	12	54	du
Isle of Man	0.7	0.01	13	55	c	Torquay	1.9	-	15	59	b
Jersey	-	-	12	54	d	Tynemouth	8.9	0.02	13	55	s
Kinloss	3.2	0.24	9	48	sl	Ventnor	3.0	-	12	54	b
Leeds	7.9	-	13	55	s	West-s-mare	0.5	-	11	52	c
Lerwick	6.4	0.26	5	41	h	Weymouth	-	-	11	52	c
Leuchars	6.9	0.02	12	54	r	Wick	X				
Littlehmptn	5.6	-	14	57	s						

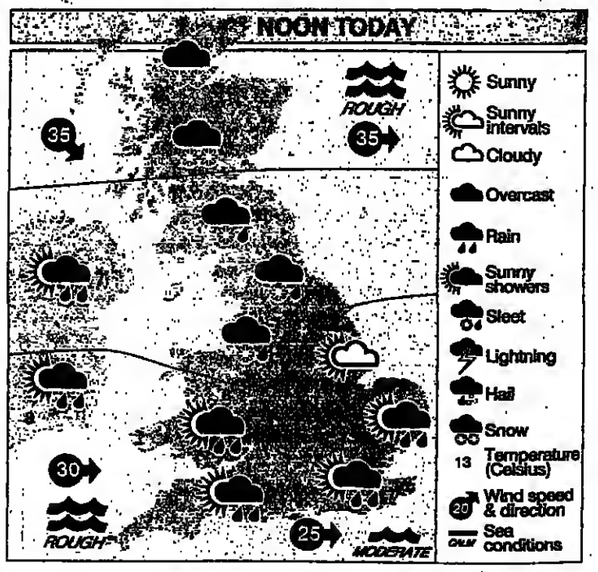
These are Monday's figures

ABROAD

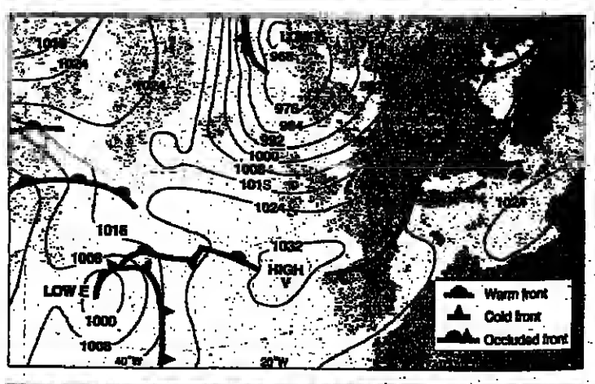
Ajaccio	16	61 s	Corfu	17	63 s	Majorca	17	63 s	Rome	16	61 f
Akrotiri	17	63 s	Dublin	8	46 f	Malaga	16	64 s	Salzburg	14	57 s
Alex'dria	18	64 f	Dubrovnik	16	61 f	Malta	18	64 f	S Frisco	16	61 s
Algiers	19	66 s	Faro	20	68 s	Melb'rne	18	64 f	Santiago	21	70 s
Amst'dm	7	45 d	Florence	16	61 f	Mexico C	18	66 f	S Paulo	25	77 c
Athens	17	63 s	Frankfurt	11	52 c	Miami	25	77 s	Seoul	6	43 s
Bahrain	23	73 s	Funchal	17	63 f	Milan	17	63 s	St'kholm	2	36 c
Bangkok	32	90 c	Geneva	12	54 c	Montreal	-2	28 s	Strasb'rg	12	54 c
Barbados	29	84 s	Gibraltar	16	61 f	Moscow	-2	28 sn	Sydney	23	73 f
Barcelona	16	61 s	Helsinki	2	36 c	Munich	12	54 f	Tangier	18	64 f
Beirut	16	61 f	Hong K	15	59 f	Nairobi	28	82 f	Tel Aviv	17	63 f
Belgrade	19	66 s	Innsbruck	13	55 s	Naples	15	59 f	Tenerife	20	68 s
Berlin	6	43 r	Istanbul	12	54 s	N Delhi	31	88 s	Tokyo	8	46 c
Biarritz	13	55 c	Jeddah	27	81 s	N York	9	48 s	Toronto	1	34 c
Borde'x	12	54 c	Jo'burg	25	77 f	Nice	14	57 f	Tunis	16	64 f
Brussels	10	50 r	Karachi	36	97 s	Oslo	6	43 s	Valencia	21	70 s
Budapst	17	63 s	L Palmas	19	66 c	Paris	12	54 c	Vanc'ver	6	46 c
B Aires	23	73 r	Le Touqt	9	48 f	Peking	11	52 s	Venice	14	57 s
Cairo	18	66 f	Lisbon	18	66 s	Perth	28	82 s	Vienna	16	61 f
Cape Tn	31	88 s	Locarno	17	63 s	Prague	10	50 c	Warsaw	7	45 s
Chicago	6	43 r	L Angeles	27	81 s	Reykjavik	-4	25 s	Wash'ton	13	55 s
Ch'church	21	70 f	Luxembg	8	46 d	Rhodes	18	64 s	Wel'ngton	20	68 c
Cologne	10	50 r	Luxor	24	75 s	Rio de J	27	81 f	Zurich	12	54 c
C'phagn	7	45 f	Madrid	16	61 s	Riyadh	22	72 s			

X = not available

NOON TODAY



Low B will slowly transfer east and fill. High V will drift east and maintain central pressure. Low E will quickly move north towards Greenland and gradually fill



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	3.56	7.01	4.18	6.97	Liverpool	1.09	8.94	1.26	8.95
Aberdeen	3.25	3.87	3.37	4.03	Lowestoft	11.48	2.31	11.58	2.39
Avonmouth	9.20	12.69	9.29	12.52	Margate	1.57	4.64	2.16	4.51
Belfast	1.00	3.37	1.15	3.38	Milford Haven	8.23	8.61	8.34	8.44
Cardiff	9.05	11.75	9.14	11.60	Newquay	7.14	6.6	7.28	6.5
Devonport	7.51	5.2	8.06	5.1	Oban	7.46	3.8	7.50	3.7
Dover	12.55	6.45	1.07	6.22	Penzance	6.53	5.9	7.09	5.2
Falmouth	7.21	5.0	7.36	4.9	Portland	8.47	1.8	8.59	1.8
Glasgow	3.02	4.7	3.18	4.7	Portsmouth	1.16	4.6	1.36	4.5
Harwich	1.48	3.68	2.06	3.77	Shoreham	1.11	5.98	1.22	5.78
Holyhead	12.16	5.24	12.30	5.27	Southampton	12.47	4.36	1.00	4.27
Hull	8.26	7.10	8.40	7.23	Swansea	6.23	8.93	6.33	8.73
Ilfracombe	6.03	9.78	8.14	8.58	Tees	5.45	4.98	5.58	5.10
King's Lynn	8.30	6.2	8.41	6.3	W'ton-on-Nze	1.42	4.13	2.00	4.01
Leith	4.49	5.14	5.07	5.18					

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 6.13 am — Sun sets: 6.07 pm

Moon sets 10.54 pm — Moon rises 7.28 am

First quarter March 20

London 6.07 pm to 6.13 am
Bristol 6.18 pm to 6.23 am
Edinburgh 6.16 pm to 6.26 am
Manchester 6.15 pm to 6.22 am
Penzance 6.28 pm to 6.34 am

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THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY MARCH 16 1994

Clarke says real jobs are on offer

FROM PHILIP BASSETT IN DETROIT

■ The conclusions of the Detroit conference, contained in a four-page statement, will help frame the agenda for the heads of government G7 summit in June

LEADING politicians from the world's richest countries yesterday agreed a set of economic principles aimed at cutting unemployment and giving those out of work "the choice of hope over fear".

British ministers approved the concluding statement on unemployment drawn up at the Group of Seven jobs conference in Detroit. However, in advance of new UK unemployment figures to be published this morning, they said that after last month's surprise rise in the number of people out of work and claiming benefit there could be further erratic months in what the Government now regards as a clear downward trend.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, dismissed the idea that jobs created since the recession were "hamburger flippers" — unskilled roles in the service industry. He accused Europe's leftwingers of creating a mythology that the new jobs in Britain and America were "not real jobs". In a BBC radio interview, he outlined his vision of a modern, deregulated economy, with more people working for small and medium-sized firms, more high technology companies and more workers setting up on their own.

Workers would have to change jobs more often, work flexible hours and undertake more training. There would be greater wage flexibility, not too much regulation on employers and it would be easier for firms to adjust the size of their workforce, Mr Clarke said.

"On the left in Britain and in Europe, there is a belief that the new jobs in America and in the United Kingdom, and the fall in unemployment, is not real jobs. It's not real trade unionist jobs. They're all hamburger flippers, part-time jobs," the Chancellor said

Lloyd Bentsen, US Treasury Secretary, last night announced the conference's conclusions as the two-day summit ended. The four-page statement, covering a broad range of employment issues, said that there was no single solution to the global unemployment problem.

Claiming the Detroit conference's conclusions would help frame the agenda for the full heads of government G7 summit in Naples, in June, Mr Bentsen said that the summit had made an "important contribution" to the global dialogue on leading and managing change, strengthening growth, creating jobs and reducing unemployment.

The G7 statement laid emphasis on structural reforms to labour markets — much pursued by the UK — though it notably avoided using the word "flexibility" which prompted argument in the closed conference. It endorsed, too, the UK's stress on active policies to take down barriers within the labour market.

Mr Clarke, said: "I was very pleased with the outcome. [of the conference] I thought it justified the G7 going into this area and picked up a general sense of enthusiasm."

Underlining that the conference's conclusions were only broad principles, not any form of binding agreement, he said: "They can be no more than that. You could not get these seven countries drawing up common policy."

In advance of today's new unemployment figures in Britain, David Hunt, Employment Secretary, told the conference: "We believe the previously inexorable rise in structural unemployment and the rate of unemployment consistent with steady inflation may now have been reversed in the UK."

Leading article, page 19
Back from summit, page 29

Poundstretcher at risk from B&J capital shortfall

BY MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

POUNDSTRETCHER, the discount retailer, is on the brink of collapse, putting at risk more than 4,000 jobs, because Brown & Jackson, its parent company, has been unable to secure facilities from its banks to cover working capital requirements for the next 12 months.

Brown & Jackson, which has raised £36.6 million through share issues since mid-1992, said it "disagrees strongly" with the stance adopted by banks and is urgently reviewing options for the future of the business. Discussions are currently under way with a potential trade investor.

Ian Gray, chief executive, said working capital requirements would have peaked at £14 million in September 1994 and in the absence of new facilities the group would not be able to continue trading. However, Brown & Jackson's bankers, led by Midland Bank, are presently secured and the company can continue trading, Mr Gray said. On the stock market, the company's shares fell from 6½p to 2¾p.

Brown and Jackson is unable to issue financial results on a going concern basis until adequate working capital is secured. Nor has the company been able to complete a sale and leaseback, announced last month, that would have raised £5.9 million.

Figures from unaudited management information show the group had pre-tax losses of £12.7 million in 1993, on sales of £170 million. Results for 1992, for 15 months, showed £6.6 million losses. Shareholders were told that should the group be unable to continue trading, the loss for 1993 would be increased by provisions to write down assets and to provide for redundancies.

Protesters against the Rover/BMW deal demonstrating outside yesterday's BAe shareholders' meeting in London

BAe chiefs come under fire as investors back Rover sale

BY ROSS TIEMAN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

SHAREHOLDERS in British Aerospace have approved the £800 million sale of Rover Group, the last British-owned volume carmaker, to BMW of Germany.

Consent was given yesterday in the face of repeated protests from small shareholders at a special meeting at the Royal Lancaster Hotel, London. Although small investors voted by 111 to 42 against the deal, Susan Windridge, the company secretary, told the meeting that proxies had been received showing 116,749,093 votes for the deal and only 1,508,049 against.

Giving details of the sale plan, Mr Cahill told shareholders that BAe had no option but to sell Rover because the conglomerate could not afford to meet the rising costs of simultaneously developing new cars and aircraft. The sale of Rover, which had peak borrowing needs of £2.7 billion, would free resources needed for the aerospace business, he said.

BMW was, in effect, paying £1.7 billion for Rover, including borrowings assumed, Mr Cahill said, and had pledged to increase investment, maintain Rover's technology base in the UK and sell more Rover cars. "I have no doubt that the Rover company will grow very rapidly," he said.

Responding to shareholder questions, George Simpson, Rover's chairman, detailed events leading to the sale agreement. He said that Honda, of Japan, which has collaborated for 14 years in the design of Rover cars and which holds a 20 per cent stake in Rover, had been told 18 months ago that BAe no longer saw Rover as a core business.

Honda decided not to act. However last summer, after BMW indicated interest, Honda had proposed raising its stake in Rover to 47.5 per cent. Under Honda's plan, BAe would have kept 47.5 per cent and 5 per cent of shares would have been made available to management and employees. However, early in January, BMW made a firm offer for the business. Honda was invited to match it, but declined.

Honda has since said it will sell its 20 per cent. Rover's 20 per cent stake in Honda's UK manufacturing arm will go to BMW under the deal. BMW and Honda are holding talks.

Under questioning, Mr Cahill said Honda's idea would not have met BAe's needs.

David Turnbull, a shareholder, suggested that BAe float 49 per cent of Rover to raise £500 million or £600 million. Mr Cahill replied: "It is not possible, with the financial structure of Rover, to demerge it or float it because of its financing needs."

Richard Lapthorne, BAe finance director, said three banks — JP Morgan, of America, a British merchant bank and a commercial bank — had been asked independently to assess whether Rover could be funded as a stand-alone business, and each had said it could not.

The outcome of a poll of shareholders called by Mr Cahill to confirm the vote is expected to be announced this morning. There was no doubt about the outcome last night.

Protest fails, page 1

Car price cuts dodged

THE Government is refusing to introduce measures recommended by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to help cut car prices for British buyers (Kevin Eason writes). Neil Hamilton, the Corporate Affairs Minister, said yesterday that he had been unable to force car groups to adopt the MMC recommendations. It now falls to the European Commission to act.

Pennington, page 27

BUSINESS EDITOR
Robert Ballantyne

BUSINESS TODAY

REBUILD

Wimpey returned to the black last year after huge losses in the previous year, thanks to a recovery in British housing
Page 27, Tempus 29

RESTRAINT

The CBI has found more evidence that consumers are restraining themselves ahead of April's tax increases
Page 26

RESURGENT

Williams Holdings, the conglomerate says, it is emerging from recession as a more efficient and competitive company
Page 30, Tempus 29

RETHINK

MAID, the business information group, appears to have had a rethink on the price it is floating off at on the market
Page 28

Saatchi chief criticises chairman's contract

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

Scott: relationship "fine"

CHARLES Scott, chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi, has launched an astonishing attack on chairman Maurice Saatchi's pay package. It follows weeks of rumours among advertisers about a serious deterioration in the two men's relationship.

Mr Saatchi is on a five-year rolling contract with the group he founded, although for the past three years he has agreed to waive half of his £625,000 salary and is expected to do so again this year. Mr Scott, is on three months' notice, said: "I don't believe it is in the best interest of the company for any of our executives to be on five-year contracts."

The matter of Mr Saatchi's package would be reviewed "in the relatively near future" by Saatchi's compensation committee of non-executives, chaired by Sir Peter Walters, the former BP chairman, Mr Scott said. The Saatchi number two insisted his relationship with his chairman remained "fine".

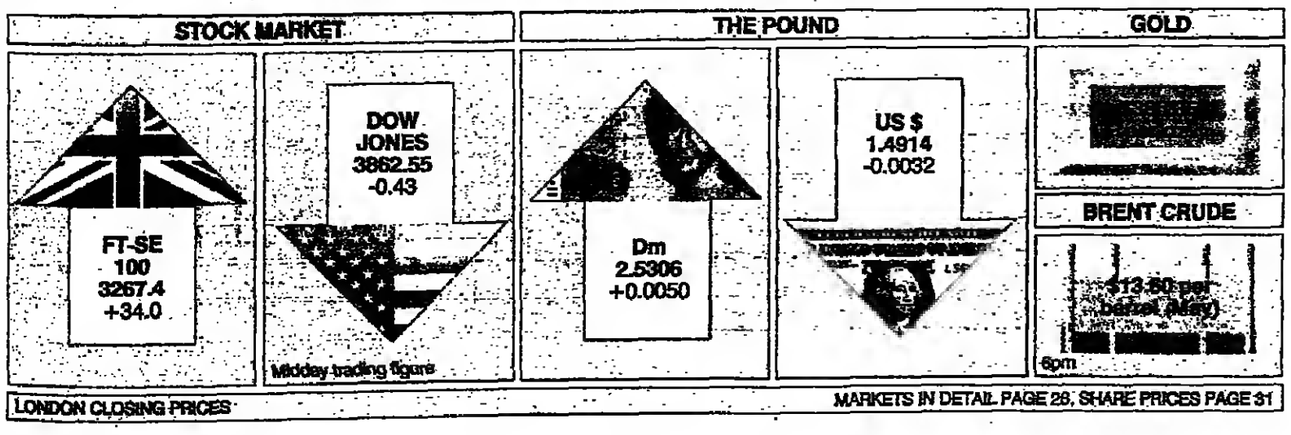
Saatchi was announcing a set of results for 1993 that topped City profits estimates, a £19.2 million return to profit at the pre-tax level contrasting with losses of £595.1 million the year before, when the company took a £600 million write-down. There is again no dividend.

But the group gave a gloomy warning that revenues would be lower in 1994 because of the loss of two big clients in the US and caution over spending on the part of some European clients.

Mr Scott said: "My career in the company is limited unless revenues start to go up." But it was down to Mr Saatchi, and the heads of the various agencies within Saatchi, to achieve this by winning new business, he added.

There was no comment from Mr Saatchi's office. But it is thought he had previously offered to give up his five-year contract in return for the implementation of a wide-ranging incentive scheme rewarding top executives, including himself, for future performance.

Tempus, page 29



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PEACE OF MIND. AROUND THE CLOCK

Retail sales slow for second month

By Ross Tieman and Janet Bush

GROWTH in retail sales slowed in February for the second month running, the Confederation of British Industry said yesterday, adding credence to the fear that consumers are already becoming defensive ahead of April's tax increases and strengthening the argument for lower base rates.

Nigel Whittaker, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades panel, said that although spending in the latest quarter was comfortably up on the same period a year ago, concern about tax rises may be restraining demand. He added that February's results showed that January's weak survey was not just a "flash in the pan".

Don Smith, UK economist with Midland Global Markets, said that past relationships between the CBI survey and official retail sales figures suggest that today's retail sales number for February is likely to be down.

Coupled with Monday's subdued figures for industry's costs and prices, the financial markets again started speculating that the Government will cut interest rates to offset the effect of the tax increases. Bonds and equities were also helped by talk of another cut in the German repurchase rate today and yesterday's subdued US producer prices figures, with prices excluding food and energy, up only 0.1 per cent in February.

The FT-SE 100 index jumped 34 points to 3,267.4 and the gilts market closed as much as 1 3/8 points higher, its best performance for some time. Sterling ended at 80.7 on its trade weighted index against 80.6 on Tuesday.

Yesterday's CBI survey's findings on inflation in the high street also pointed to subdued consumer demand. In the year to February, shop prices had risen at the slowest rate since the survey began in 1983.

Other evidence from the survey, covering 15,000 shops, wholesalers and garages, suggests that the broader economic recovery is on course. Although retailers are cautious, wholesalers reported the highest year-on-year increase in volumes since last October.

The survey, conducted at the end of February, also shows a strong resurgence in the motor trade, with dealers enjoying the best rise in sales volumes since August 1988.

Also released yesterday were construction industry figures from the environment department. Orders rose 16 per cent in the three months to January compared with the previous three months and were 30 per cent higher than a year ago. However, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors said that construction prices had remained stable over the past 18 months.

Pennington, page 27

JAMIE WISEMAN

The profits advance has been largely driven by acquisitions in America, Ralph Hinchliffe, the chairman, says

US growth boosts Heywood Williams 540%

PROFITS have soared 540 per cent at Heywood Williams, the building products and automotive parts group that strengthened its presence in America after selling a large part of its UK glass business (Martin Flanagan writes). Taxable profits were £35.2 million (£5.5 million) last year and, excluding £15 million profit on the glass business sale to Pilkington last March, profits for the remaining business grew 267 per cent to £20.2 million. Ralph Hinchliffe, chairman, said acquisitions in America had transformed group prospects. About half of Heywood's business is now in America. Europe, he forecast, would remain in the doldrums for a couple of years. Building products profits grew to £7.6 million (£1.9 million), while automotive components made £10.3 million (£6.01 million). Earnings per share rose from 1.7p to 32.9p. A final dividend of 8.5p makes a total of 13p (12.5p).

Japanese surplus increases

From a Correspondent in Tokyo

JAPAN'S trade surplus grew just over three per cent to $10.91 billion in February from $10.57 billion a year earlier, unadjusted for seasonal factors, the finance ministry said.

February was the third consecutive month in which the global surplus rose, but the gain was smaller than expected and economists said the surplus was on the verge of shrinking.

Tokyo's high-profile trade surplus with Washington alone was $4.34 billion, only a fraction less than the $4.38 billion in February 1993.

But in yen terms, the customs-cleared surplus with the United States shrank 0.9 per cent from a year earlier. It was the first drop in the surplus for nine months.

The US and other trading partners are keeping the heat on Japan to boost its economy and open up to more imports as a means to cut its trade surplus.

This offer notice, which is published on 16th March, 1994, is issued in compliance with the requirements of the International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited ("the London Stock Exchange"). It should be read in conjunction with the listing particulars dated 16th March, 1994 ("the Listing Particulars") relating to The Fleming European Fledgeling Investment Trust plc ("the Company") which alone contains full details of the Company and the Conversion Shares.

A Mini Prospectus relating to the Placing and Offer for Subscription has also been produced and is available as set out below.

In applying for Conversion Shares in the Company you will be treated as applying on the basis of the information contained in the Listing Particulars and on the terms and conditions contained therein. Expressions defined in the Listing Particulars have the same meanings in this notice. Before deciding to apply for Conversion Shares, you should consider carefully whether they are a suitable investment for you. Their value and the income from them can go down as well as up. If you need advice, you should consult an authorised financial adviser.

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Availability of the Mini Prospectus and of the Listing Particulars

Copies of the Listing Particulars and the Mini Prospectus, including Application Forms, can be obtained during normal business hours up to and including 11th April, 1994 from the following:

Fleming Investment Trust Management Limited, 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7DR. Tel: 071 920 0539

S.G. Warburg Securities Ltd., 1 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA. Tel: 071 606 1066

Copies of the Listing Particulars may also be collected during normal business hours from the Company Announcements Office, The London Stock Exchange, London Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court Entrance, off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2 until 18th March, 1994.

Application Form

An Application Form in respect of the Offer for Subscription is set out alongside, together with a guide on how to complete it. Completed Application Forms should be returned by post to New Issues Department, Barclays Registrars, PO Box 166, Bourne House, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TH or by hand only to Barclays Registrars, 170 Fenchurch Street, London EC3 or Robert Fleming & Co. Limited, 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2, **in each case so as to be received not later than 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 7th April, 1994.**

APPLICATION FORM

Important – Before completing this form, you should read the accompanying notes.

All applicants must complete sections 1, 2 and 4.

1. PERSONAL DETAILS (PLEASE USE BLACK INK AND BLOCK CAPITALS)

Title | Surname | Permanent Address
First Names
A/C Designation (if any)
Telephone (Home) (Business) | Postcode

2. APPLICATION TO THE FLEMING EUROPEAN FLEDGELING INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

I/We offer to subscribe for [ ] Conversion Shares at 100p each in The Fleming European Fledgeling Investment Trust plc, subject to the Terms and Conditions of Application set out in the Listing Particulars and Mini Prospectus dated 16th March, 1994.

I/We attach a cheque or bankers' draft for the amount payable of £ [ ]

☐ Pin your cheque or bankers' draft for the exact amount specified in the box made payable to 'Robert Fleming & Co. Limited a/c FEFIT' and crossed 'a/c Payee only'.

Section 3 must only be completed by Joint Applicants.

3. JOINT APPLICANTS

Title | Title | Title
Surname | Surname | Surname
First Names | First Names | First Names
Signature | Signature | Signature

4. SIGNATURE

Signature | Date 1994

For official use only

Stamp of Intermediary | SRO and Membership Number | Conversion Shares Allotted

NOTES ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

All applicants must complete sections 1, 2 and 4.

1. PERSONAL DETAILS

Fill in (in block capitals) the full name and address of the applicant.
If this application is being made jointly with other persons, please read Note 3 before completing Box 1.
For company applications, please give the registered name of the company.

2. APPLICATION TO THE FLEMING EUROPEAN FLEDGELING INVESTMENT TRUST PLC

Fill in (in figures) the number of Conversion Shares for which you wish to apply.
The application must be for a minimum of 2,000 Conversion Shares unless you are a registered holder of the Company's Ordinary Shares or Warrants or hold them through the Fleming Plans and apply on a priority Application Form, in which case your application must be for a minimum of 1,500 Conversion Shares. Thereafter you may apply for:

- up to 5,000 Conversion Shares in multiples of 500 shares;
- from 5,000 to 10,000 Conversion Shares in multiples of 1,000 shares;
- from 10,000 to 50,000 Conversion Shares in multiples of 5,000 shares; and
- above 50,000 Conversion Shares in multiples of 10,000 shares.

Fill in (in figures) the total amount payable at 100p per Conversion Share.
Pin a cheque or bankers' draft for the exact amount shown in the Box to your completed Application Form. Your cheque or bankers' draft must be made payable to 'Robert Fleming & Co. Limited a/c FEFIT' and crossed 'a/c Payee only'.

Your payment must relate solely to this application. No receipt will be issued.

Your cheque or bankers' draft must be drawn in sterling on an account at a bank branch in the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man and must bear a United Kingdom bank sort code number in the top right hand corner. If you do not have a cheque account, you can obtain a cheque from your building society or bank branch.

An application may be accompanied by a cheque drawn by someone other than the applicant(s), but any monies returned will be sent by cheque crossed 'a/c Payee only' in favour of the first-named applicant.

Please ensure that you have sufficient funds in your bank account as cheques may be presented immediately.

Section 3 must only be completed by Joint Applicants.

3. JOINT APPLICANTS

You may apply jointly with up to three other persons. Boxes 1 and 2 must be completed by one applicant. All other persons who wish to join in the application must complete and sign Box 3.

Another person may sign on behalf of any joint applicant if that other person is duly authorised to do so under a power of attorney. The power of attorney (or a copy duly certified by a solicitor) must be enclosed for inspection.

Certificates for the Conversion Shares, cheques and other correspondence will be sent to the address in Box 1.

4. SIGNATURE

The applicant named in Box 1 must date and sign Box 4.

The Application Form may be signed by another person on your behalf if that person is duly authorised to do so under a power of attorney. The power of attorney (or a copy duly certified by a solicitor) must be enclosed for inspection.

A corporation should sign under the hand of a duly authorised official, whose representative capacity must be stated.

Holders of Ordinary Shares and/or Warrants through the Fleming Share Plan are requested to insert their Share Plan account number.

DELIVERY OF APPLICATION FORMS AND CONVERSION CERTIFICATES

Completed Application Forms should be returned to New Issues Department, Barclays Registrars, PO Box 166, Bourne House, 34 Beckenham Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4TH or delivered by hand only to Barclays Registrars, 170 Fenchurch Street, London EC3 or Robert Fleming & Co. Limited, 25 Copthall Avenue, London EC2, in each case so as to be received not later than 10.00 a.m. on Thursday, 7th April, 1994. If you post your Application Form, you are recommended to use first class post and to allow at least two days for delivery.

Wassall performance gets better by half

WASSALL, the mini-conglomerate run by former Hanson executives, lifted pre-tax profits by 55 per cent to £27.6 million from £17.8 million in 1993. The rise reflected increased margins and profits across all the group's divisions, which span DIY building products, bottle closures, luggage and office furniture. The final dividend increased 41 per cent to 2.4p, making a total for the year of 3.4p, up 36 per cent, and the shares gained 10p to 295p.

The acquisitive company, which pulled out of a takeover attempt on Evode Group in January 1993 due to the appearance of a higher bidder, reiterated its intention to hunt out takeover targets. Christopher Miller, chief executive, said there were many opportunities in both the UK and the US and that he hoped to conclude an acquisition "in the not too distant future". Wassall had £41 million of cash and investments and net assets of £130 million at the year-end.

Euro Disney rallies

TRADING in Euro Disney shares was briefly suspended on the Paris Bourse yesterday after panicking dealers swamped the market with sell orders. The shares plunged 10.2 per cent when dealing began on fears of potential dilution arising from the proposed Fr13 billion refinancing, announced on Monday. The share price fell to Fr30.30 on opening before rallying in the afternoon. In London, the shares closed up 5p at 395p. The core of the refinancing, a proposed Fr6 billion rights issue, could dilute shareholders' interests by up to 70 per cent.

Ansells expands

ANSELLS, the Birmingham drinks group, is to spend £25 million on renovating 75 public houses in the Midlands, Wales and the West Country. It will bring the company's total spending over the past four years to £90 million. About 300 jobs will be created in the public houses as a result of the new investment, and the move will help underpin hundreds of building jobs. Martin Grant, Ansells' managing director, said: "British pubs in the 90s are competing with a host of other leisure opportunities. But we intend to stay at the forefront by offering added value."

GEC studies judgment

GEC says it is considering the terms of a $22 million award made against it by a tribunal appointed by the London Court of International Arbitration. Hughes Aircraft Company claimed that obligations to Hughes were breached because of GEC's acquisition of Ferranti Defence Systems and the award to GEC Ferranti Systems of a contract to develop European Fighter Aircraft radar. GEC said: "Arbitration has established the falsity of Hughes' accusations that GEC ..fsl. misappropriated Hughes' technology."

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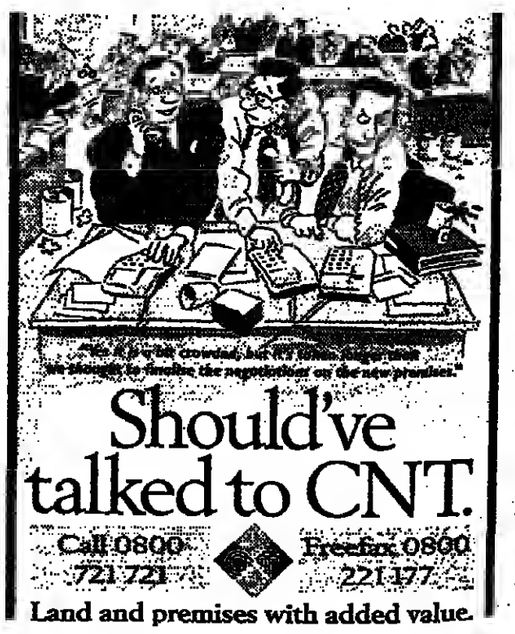


☐ Brussels is no friend of car buyers ☐ Montgomery focuses on the figures ☐ Idle Ides of March

President's motorcade stalls

☐ MORE triumphs for Michael Heseltine. Nearly two years ago, freshly installed in the nearest the DTI could manage to the White House, he asked the Office of Fair Trading to start talks with car suppliers to implement modest Monopolies Commission proposals to make the car trade more competitive and help dealers loosen their stultifying serfdom to manufacturers. "I urge car companies to enter these discussions ... in a constructive spirit", he said. This was, after all, to be a new era of co-operation between President and industry. Allowing dealers to edge towards the retail revolution would "help sharpen the competitive edge of our car industry in the single European market and beyond". He is still launching paper initiatives for competitiveness. Yesterday's ignominious revelation that the car talks had been abandoned says more about the practical results.

Across the park from Whitehall, investors in British Aerospace were learning more truths about the dynamic results of rising competitiveness at the last big British-owned car maker. Not a single voting shareholder stood up to back the sale of Rover to BMW. City institutions backed it all the same. They had heard the arguments from John Cahill, BAe's chairman, who is now busy exporting himself. Despite the resurgence of Rover, which had, as Mr Heseltine would say, won "the battle for consumer confidence", BAe could not afford to invest in it. Why not? Well, BAe reckons it a better proposition to invest in the cosily protected defence industry, and in Airbus, which is under the protective wing of the French government. For Mr Heseltine too, this was a sensible commercial decision.

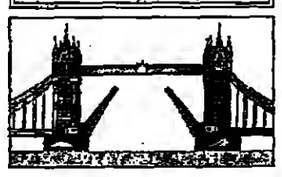
The DTI has now handed the issues of competition in the motor trade over to the European Commission, trusting it will act, over Europe as a whole, on the MMC proposals. But Mr Heseltine knows the EC review of carmakers' block exemption from competition rules will be dominated by the supplier lobby, under France's protectionist leadership. They are paranoid about keeping the Japanese out and see control of the distribution chain as a useful weapon.

The MMC had recommended that dealers should be allowed to advertise outside their appointed territory, to sell as many cars as they could, to sell other makes of cars at a discreet distance and take on related businesses, such as car hire, beyond the boundaries set by manufacturers. Simple freedoms. The MMC also said the quota on Japanese imports was keeping prices high. The European Commission is trying to cut these quotas, an indication of its general approach. The motor trade will be condemned to stagnate. Which explains why consumers can drive to an out-of-town supermarket with a convenient car park but too often find their local car dealer is on a restricted site with yellow lines outside. That's lack of competition for you.

MGN spikes The Independent

☐ IT IS unusual for a company, participating in a takeover bid of a magnitude which approximates to a year's pre-tax profits, to make no mention of such a venture when delivering its "prelims". Such, however, was Mirror Group Newspapers' style of presentation yesterday. No less than eight "highlights" adorn the

PENNINGTON



press release accompanying MGN's 1993-94 results but not a hint, let alone a highlight, regarding the company's central role in the consortium bid for Newspaper Publishing, valuing the proprietor of the *Independent* titles at some £74 million.

With Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, expected to reveal, any day now, whether he is prepared to waive a reference of Newspaper Publishing to the MMC, the stance taken by David Montgomery, MGN's chief executive, would appear to be that the matter is something akin to *subjudice*. Whatever Montgomery's precise perspective on the Newspaper Publishing affair, transparency is clearly not high on the agenda. Nor has it been throughout the MGN consortium's tortuous negotiations to acquire control of *The Independent*, whose slogan "It is ... are you?" tolls less clearly than before. Witness the call to Heseltine, by Tony O'Reilly's Independent Newspapers enterprise, with a near-30 per cent stake in Newspaper Publishing, for a series of safeguards and conditions, including a "balanced board". Allegations of "secret deals" between the European contingent and MGN, are also of concern and it is over such matters that Heseltine is mulling.

MGN's turnaround (as anticipated) was sharp — even given the benefit of a 53-week accounting period. On turnover little more than static at £476 million (£466 million), trading profits rose 19 per cent to £115.9 million. With interest charges one third lower at £29.8 million and the pension finance charge cut by 28 per cent to £12.8 million, pre-tax profits are struck at £73.8 million (£32.5 million). Add exceptionals of £58.1 million (reflecting the pension fund release) and a pre-tax loss of £88.7 million is replaced with a pre-tax profit of £131.9 million. Debt is down £57 million to £335 million which reduces gearing from 108 per cent to 73 per cent. A £142 million pension fund liability is currently set to be funded by payments averaging some £20 million over more than a decade. Plans for a "rights" are denied. MGN's share price added 7p to 197p — usefully clear of last year's 170p placing price of more than 50 per cent of the equity.

Bring back our Budget

☐ SOMETHING was missing yesterday. Events you expect on the mid Tuesday of the month duly took their places: racing at Cheltenham and half-year results from Paterson Zochonis, maker of Cussons soaps. But the Ides of March came and went without the battered Budget box. Instead of frantic activity in the City and the media, there was idle talk about whether the Bundesbank's flexible repo rate had any significance or, more likely, did not. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was in Detroit, Michigan, mouthing desultory smug platitudes about jobs.

That modernising spoilsport Norman Lamont has deprived Britain of one of its traditional spring festivals. When he announced that spring Budgets and autumn spending statements were to be unified, unseasonally ahead of Christmas, the fiscal establishment nodded sage approval. After only one, enthusiasm is waning rapidly. So many announcements came at once, on anything from village bypasses to multinational intermediate holding companies, that the aim of making the link between spending and financing more transparent quite failed. Indeed, the sheer information overload had the opposite effect.

The trumpeted ability to plan taxation better counted for nought. The Budget produced the longest and most obscure Finance Bill on record. Accountants and tax experts complained, as never before, that even they could not understand it. Economists have agonised, for four months, whether the delayed tax increases would scupper recovery. Yet this depressing uncertainty is solely due to the Budget being in November while the tax year still starts in April. The campaign starts now to bring back real Budgets.

Wolseley surges to £87m

A REVIVAL in the building industry on both sides of the Atlantic helped Wolseley, the Worcestershire building materials group, report an 83 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £47.6 million to £87 million in the six months to January 31 (Philip Pangalos writes).

The results benefited from increased activity in the UK and US and from acquisitions. Enertech, acquired last April, contributed £10 million, while purchases since July's year-end chipped in £4.6 million. There was also £4.1 million of currency benefits. Total turnover, boosted by acquisitions, grew to £1.54 billion (£1.15 billion).

Earnings leapt to 22.09p (12.86p) a share and the interim dividend is raised to 4.72p (3.55p). The shares jumped 73p to 975p.

Wimpey moves back to black but sees only modest recovery

By Philip Pangalos

■ The builder, back in profit after a sharp rise in housing completions, expects house prices to climb 5 per cent this year, with the largest increases in southern England

GEORGE Wimpey, which moved back into the black last year, expects only "modest" recovery on both sides of the Atlantic despite a good start to housebuilding this year.

A sharp rise in housing completions, reduced costs and increased efficiency helped lift pre-tax profits to £25.5 million in the year to December 31, against a provision-led loss of £111.6 million last time. Trading profits grew 85 per cent to £37.1 million, despite a drop in turnover to £1.59 billion (£1.64 billion). The UK housing business was Wimpey's engine for growth. Total housing operating profit stood at £25.4 million, after a £33.3 million loss last time, on turnover of £544.9 million (£469.3 million). Worldwide house sales rose to 10,600 (7,746), with 8,134 (5,751) sales and 6,936 (5,542) completions in the UK. Margins on UK homes were 6.5 per cent (3 per cent). Wimpey is looking to complete at least 7,500 sales this year.

The average selling price in the UK fell to £55,000 (£60,000), while the percentage of first-time buyers dipped to 49 per cent (55 per cent) as Wimpey's part-exchange scheme attracted more second-time buyers.

Joe Dwyer, chief executive, said UK house prices have risen by an average of 2 per cent since the start of the year, with an increase of 5 per cent anticipated for this year. The south of England witnessed the highest rises. He added: "Our principal housing businesses on both sides of the Atlantic have had an encouraging start to the year, with sales continuing to increase. General recovery, however, is likely to be modest in both the UK and US."

The group, which plans to consolidate its housing activities into two markets, the UK and US, bought land and has enough to satisfy nearly three years of demand.

Despite overcapacity in the industry, tender opportunities in the UK held up well. The construction division saw profits fall to £2.2 million (£4.5 million), on turnover down to £658.8 million (£683.4 million). Overseas turnover grew 33 per cent year on year.

Minerals remained flat, with low demand and excess capacity continuing to plague the UK, though the industry appears to have stopped chasing prices downwards. Operating profit in the minerals division climbed to £13.1 million (£1.6 million), on sales up to £301 million (£260 million).

Property sales dropped to £72 million (£215 million).

Borrowings were cut to £28 million (£136 million), thanks to last June's £104 million rights issue, bringing gearing to a 20-year low of 5 per cent.

Mr Dwyer said Wimpey would now "use the strength of our resources to achieve a better balance in activities".

Earnings stood at 6.81p a share, against losses of 40.1p a share last time. The total dividend, which was virtually halved last year after being held at the same level for three years, is maintained at 5.25p for the year, with an unchanged final payout of 3.25p.

Wimpey again denied newspaper allegations relating to bribes for Malaysian contracts. Sir John Quinton, chairman, said: "Wimpey has not worked in Malaysia and we've never paid any bribes to any politicians."

The shares lost 10p to 206p.

Tempus, page 29

Medeva pays out £1.6m in fees

By Sarah Bagnall

MEDEVA, the pharmaceuticals company, is to pay more than £1.6 million in consultancy fees to two directors who yesterday announced their resignations.

Ian Gowrie-Smith, the Australian behind Medeva's dash for growth, is quitting as managing director, and David Lees is standing down as finance director. Both men received £30,000 compensation for loss of office.

Mr Gowrie-Smith, who remains as a non-executive director, and Mr Lees are setting up a consultancy firm to provide acquisition services to Medeva, and, according to the drug company's annual accounts, which were issued yesterday, they will receive initial payments of £286,000 and £230,000, respectively. In addition, they will receive further minimum payments of £700,000 and £400,000 over the next three years.

Medeva says that acquisitions are still on the agenda, but a greater emphasis is being placed on organic growth. The change of stance was welcomed by the City, given the problems that Medeva ran into last year with two of its American acquisitions. Yesterday, Bernard Taylor, the chairman, unveiling group results for the year to December 31, said that these problems have been resolved.

Pre-tax profits beat market expectations by growing by 28 per cent, to £46.1 million. The final dividend rises by 0.3p, to 1.8p, making a year's total of 2.7p, against 2.25p last time. Sales grew by 39 per cent, to £200.4 million, with like-for-like sales 20 per cent up.

Tempus, page 29

PAUL HANNA

John Allwood, left, finance director, and David Montgomery yesterday reflecting on "quite a difficult year"

Cutbacks carry MGN back to black

By Martin Waller
Deputy City Editor

A HEFTY round of cost-cutting, including 600 job losses, helped boost margins and profits last year at Mirror Group Newspapers. At the pre-tax level, the company returned to the black for the first time in three years.

Taxable earnings of £131.9 million in the year to January 2, against losses of £88.7 million the previous year, were boosted by one-off profits of £58.1 million, mainly because MGN was able to reduce the amount the group had set aside to cover money stolen from its pension funds by Robert Maxwell.

The reduction comes after a review of future liabilities by independent actuaries and the recovery of some cash from former financial advisers. The previous year's profits were more than wiped out by a £121 million exceptional item, also mainly relating to the looted pension funds.

David Montgomery, chief executive, said 1993, the first year for MGN under new management, had been "quite a difficult year, for one reason or another". Trading profits grew 19 per cent on turnover that was just 2 per cent higher, representing an improvement in margins from 20.9 per cent to 24.3 per cent.

Operating costs were cut, £14 million coming off production and £2 million off the editorial budget, although higher newsprint costs and the need to raise promotional spending in the light of the newspaper price war with the *Daily Mirror's* main competitor, *The Sun*, cost an extra £7 million. The 600 job cuts, across MGN, which took the workforce below 3,000 by the end of last year, will be followed by almost 300 more as part of the restructuring. Mr Montgomery refused to comment on the potential for cost-cutting if MGN is cleared by the Department of Trade and Industry to buy a significant stake in the group that publishes *The Independent*.

MGN enjoyed a 9.7 per cent rise in advertising revenues, even though actual circulation across the group was down on the previous year; a creditable performance, the group said, given the price war.

Mr Montgomery said the fall in the circulation of the *Daily Mirror*, officially 7.6 per cent in 1993, had had no impact on advertising rates.

Media, page 22

Law makes issuers liable for faulty foreign goods

Credit card companies must meet claims

By Sara McConnell
Personal Finance Correspondent

CREDIT card companies refusing to compensate British cardholders who have been sold faulty or shoddy goods abroad are in breach of their own contracts, the Director General of Fair Trading said yesterday. Sir Bryan Carsberg said the Consumer Credit Act 1974 was "neither unclear nor ambiguous": under section 75 of the Act, cardholders buying goods and services costing between £100 and £30,000 on a card can claim compensation from the credit card company as well as the supplier if the goods are faulty, as company and supplier are "jointly and severally liable".

Credit card companies have argued that they are not responsible if cardholders pay with their card for goods or services abroad only to find they are faulty or unsuitable in some way, or that the company selling has gone out of business.

But Sir Bryan, who has reviewed section 75 after a request from ministers, said he was "confident" that the section applied to card transactions abroad. It also applied in cases where the credit card issuer was not the same company that had originally processed the card transaction for the supplier. He added: "I therefore look to card issuers, in dealing with claims, to treat consumers on the basis that section 75 does indeed apply equally to all credit card transactions regardless of where they take place or the particular merchant acquirer involved."

Credit card issuers, led by the Credit Card Research Group, have been calling for a change in the law that would oblige cardholders to approach a supplier first for compensation. At the moment, they can demand compensation from the credit card company without going to the supplier. Sir Bryan has invited comments from card issuers and consumer bodies.

PREPARE TO BE

AMAZED

With so many mobile phones to choose from, it takes a very special one to create the stir that the Ericsson EH237 has.

But then, how many mobile phones weigh in at just 200g, sit snugly in your jacket pocket and still manage to pack in as many features as the EH237?

Like a 199 name/number memory, each capable of holding up to 32 digits. Like a full hour's talk time or eight and a half hours on stand by, on one battery charge.

Like a choice of security and call barring options, call timers and total call counts, automatic recall and last six-number redial. Like sound quality that's - there's no other word for it - amazing.

In short, we think you'll like the EH237 rather a lot.

Just wait till you get your hands on one at your nearest mobile phone dealer.

Although, with our Handsfree Kit, you'll be able to see how good the EH237 is without so much as touching it. In its unique Voice Activated Answer Mode you can actually answer the phone with your voice.

And there are special accessories such as a windscreen holder and goose-neck microphone that make the EH237 truly hands free in your car.

No wonder it easily won 'What Mobile's' Mobile Phone of the Year award. You'd be amazed if it hadn't.

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Frankfurt and Cheltenham provide distractions for investors

MARKET REPORT

INVESTORS are again pinning their hopes on a cut in German interest rates at tomorrow's Bundesbank meeting which it is hoped will pave the way for a further softening of domestic rates.

As a result, shares on the London stock market continued to be squeezed higher with the FT-SE 100 index closing near its best of the day up 34.0 at 3,267.4. But trading conditions remained thin with only 616 million shares changing hands as attendance levels in the Square Mile were hit by the start of the Cheltenham festival.

The equity market was once again led higher by firmer European bond markets which are confident that interest rate cuts are on the way.

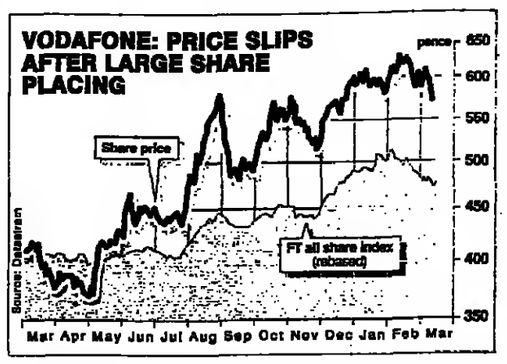
The argument for a softening of domestic rates was also provided by the latest CBI survey showing a further slowing of retail sales during February.

In the meantime, pressure for a rise in US interest rates appears to have abated with the latest US producer price figures indicating that inflation is under control.

Vodafone eased 4p to 571p as UBS, the broker, placed 5.9 million shares with institutions at 564p. The placing raised £33.3 million for the company which will be used to finance the acquisition of a third stake in Talkland, the mobile telephone sales group.

Utilities led the way higher with some praise from NatWest Securities, the broker, for both water companies and power generators. NatWest says worries about loss of market share for the generators since privatisation have been overdone. Instead it points to strong dividend growth and the lack of regulatory interference. **National Power** climbed 13p to 463p, **PowerGen**, 13p to 552p, **Scottish Hydro**, 4p to 383p and **Scottish Power**, 1p to 408p.

Water companies enjoyed mark-ups in **Anglian**, 7p to 522p, **North West**, 20p to 546p, **Northumbrian**, 7p to 655p, **Severn Trent**, 15p to 579p, **Southern**, 9p to 573p, **Thames**, 8p to 536p, **Welsh**, 13p to 667p, and **Wessex**, 15p to 671p.



Cadbury Schweppes rose 14p to 496p after Kleinwort Benson, the broker, decided the shares looked cheap and covered a short position.

Meanwhile, it was another heavy day for company trading statements. **Saatchi & Saatchi** marked time at 142p after a return to the black but said revenues were set to fall in 1994 after losing two big accounts. News of a return to profitability failed to lift **George Wimpey** and the shares fell 12p to 206p, after touching 223p. The builder recorded a pre-tax profit of £25.5 million against a loss last time of £111.6 million.

Mirror Group slipped 2½p to 187½p despite a turnround from losses while **Williams Holdings** rose 5p to 408p, despite a dip in profits.

Wolseley, the builders merchant, celebrated a leap in pre-tax profits from £47.5 million to £86.9 million with a rise in the share price of 69p to 971p, while **Wassall's** £10 million rise in annual pre-tax profits to £27.6 million was good for 10p on the shares to 295p.

Talk of a profits warning left **Ingham**, the automotive components group, 31p lower at 131p. **Everest Foods** finished 9p cheaper at 68p after telling shareholders pressure on margins meant higher volume had not been reflected in profits. If the trend continued, profits for the full year were unlikely to improve on the first half figure of £1.08 million.

Andrews Syke firmed 5p to 90p as Jacques Murray again attempted to gain control of the company. **Beaufort** hardened 1p to 29p as Beeson Gregory, the broker, placed the rump of the group's recent rights issue. The 1.9 million shares were placed with various institutions at 25p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts had further gains on hopes of a cut in German interest rates and better than expected US inflation figures. The June series of the Long Gilt soared £1 11/32 to £112 21/32 in thin trading which saw only 57,000 contracts completed. At the long end, Treasury 9 per cent 2012 jumped £1 9/32 to £117 11/32, while in shorts, Treasury 9½ per cent 1999 was £7/16 better at £111 21/32.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Blue chips were flat at midday, failing to respond to February inflation data and a rally on the bond market. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 0.43 points at 3,862.55.

MICHAEL CLARK

THE POUND

US $	1.4914 (-0.0032)
German mark	2.5308 (+0.0050)
Exchange index	80.7 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100	3267.4 (+34.0)
Dow Jones	3862.55 (-0.43)*
Nikkei Avg	20508.85 (-17.30)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	5¼%
3-month Interbank	5 5/16-5 3/16%
US Federal Funds	3¾%
3-month Treas Bills	$.57-3.55%*
Long Bond	6.90%*

CURRENCIES

New York:	London:
£:$ 1.4925*	£:$ 1.4919
$:DM ..1.6940*	£:DM 2.5300
$:SWfr..1.4380*	£:SWfr....2.1461
$:Ffr ...5.7595*	£:Ffr 8.5960
$:Yen ..105.95*	£:Yen 158.14
£:SDR ..1.0664	£:ECU 1.3069

London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing ($):
AM 386.25 ..... PM 387.10
Close 386.10-386.60
New York:
Comex 387.05-387.55*

OIL

Brent Crude..... $13.60 per bbl (May)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI..141.3 Jan (2.5%) Jan 1987=100

* Denotes midday trading price

BANK RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.22	2.02
Austria Sch	18.77	17.27
Belgium Fr	55.21	50.81
Canada $	2.142	1.982
Cyprus Cyp£	0.782	0.742
Denmark Kr	10.47	9.67
Finland Mkk	8.87	8.07
France Fr	9.04	8.34
Germany Dm	2.68	2.47
Greece Dr	385.50	360.50
Hong Kong $	12.19	11.19
Ireland Pt	1.09	1.01
Italy Lira	2592.00	2437.00
Japan Yen	174.00	157.00
Malta	0.622	0.567
Netherlds Gld	2.988	2.758
Norway Kr	11.58	10.73
Portugal Esc	269.50	251.00
S Africa Rd	5.90	5.00
Spain Pta	214.50	200.50
Sweden Kr	12.27	11.47
Switzerland Fr	2.28	2.10
Turkey Lira	32500.0	30000.0
USA $	1.592	1.462

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

MAID capitalisation lower than expected

By Philip Pangalos

AS THE wave of companies seeking a quote continued, pricing details from MAID surprised the market as the business information group appeared to scale down its proposed float, capitalising it at about £10 million below previous market expectations.

Shares in MAID will be priced at 110p each, capitalising the group at about £89.1 million, which compares with a previous expectation that the group would have a market value nearer £100 million. The pricing details of the institutional placing emerged amid reports that some houses had balked at the valuation given to the group.

However, informed sources suggest that the "competitively" priced placing has been "well oversubscribed", with widespread scaling back of applications.

MAID, which provides a computer database of business information available directly to a personal computer via a local telephone call in more than 1,100 cities worldwide, will receive net proceeds of £11.6 million from the placing to be used to finance future investment and to further develop the group. Some in the City had expected the company to raise between £15 million and £20 million.

Hill Samuel Bank is sponsor to the issue, with Hoare Govett Corporate Finance the broker. Dealings are due to begin on March 25.

☐ Shares in the forthcoming flotation of Wainhomes, the Chester housebuilding group, have been priced at 170p, capitalising the company at £105.8 million.

Some 39.6 per cent of the group is being floated, raising £30.5 million to expand the business and buy land.

Ron Smith, chief executive, said sales so far in the year to March 31 are running 37 per cent ahead of last year. The group predicts pre-tax profits of about £6.1 million.

The offer and placing is underwritten by Charterhouse Bank, with NatWest Wood Mackenzie broker. Dealings are due to start on March 30.

☐ Rugby Estates, the property company, is likely to be capitalised at between £25 million and £30 million when it comes to the market next month. BZW is the sponsor, with de Zoete & Bevan the broker. The placing price will be announced on March 30, with dealings due to begin on April 8.

JAMES MORGAN

Ron Smith, chief executive of Wainhomes

GKN wins Westland bid funds

GKN, currently fighting a contested bid for Westland, has received acceptances in respect of 90.9 per cent of the units of non-interest bearing convertible loan stock, which were offered via a rights issue at a price of 480p, payable in two equal instalments.

Subscribers have been found for the remaining units at a price higher than 480p. The second instalment is conditional on the Westland offer becoming wholly unconditional and GKN achieving a 75 per cent stake.

Board changes

Bluebird Toys said Torquil Norman is to split the roles of chairman and chief executive, staying as chairman. Christopher Burgin, formerly with Hasbrok UK, part of the world's largest toymaker, becomes chief executive. Group operations director Angus Fisher has resigned.

GPA rents

GPA Group's Aircraft Lease Portfolio Securities (ALPS) 92-1 securitisation vehicle said it received $12.5 million in rental payments for the three months ended December 23. ALPS also reported a fall in the average value put on its fleet in three appraisals commissioned from December 1993.

RECENT ISSUES

Abtrust New Dawn C	246	...	
Alpha Airports (140)	172	+1	
Care UK Wts	6	−½	
Cedardata (105)	108	...	
Chiroscience (150)	146	−1	
Clinical Computing (124)	148	...	
Edinburgh New Tiger (50)	48½	...	
Fidelity Jpn Values (100)	93	...	
Fidelity Jps Wts	52	...	
Finelist (130)	145	...	
Fleming Japan C	103½	...	
Franklin Res	£31½	+½	
Goldsborough Hlth (170)	169	...	
Graham Group (183)	214	+8	
Guangdong Dvlpt	73	+½	
Guangdong Dvlpt Wts	29¼	...	
Herald Inv Tst (100)	102	+½	
Herald Inv Wts	51	...	
Mercury Euro Prvtn	464	−4	
Mithras Inv Tst (50)	51	...	
Mithras Inv Wts	26	...	
Ptarmigan Int'l C	199	...	
Radstone Tech (125)	115	−1	
Saracen Value (100)	95	...	
Saracen Value Wts	38	...	
Schroder UK Gwth	503	+5	
Trifast (200)	208	...	
Tring Intl (118)	129	...	
United Carriers (153)	159	...	

RIGHTS ISSUES

Burford n/p (92)	10	−2
Cap & Regional n/p (173)	16	−1
Care UK n/p (4¼)	4½	+½
Conrad Ritblat n/p (42)	4	...
Creston Land n/p (15)	2½	−½
Firth (GM) n/p (12)	11	−½
Grosvenor Inns n/p (120)	35	...
Wetherspoon JD n/p (315)	52	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Barclays	555p (+22p)
Lloyds	599p (+18p)
Nat West	497p (+12p)
Meyer Int	545p (+29p)
RMC Group	972p (+13p)
Travis Perkins	359p (+13p)
N Brown	444p (+10p)
Kingfisher	619p (+11p)
Micro Focus	960p (+12p)
Scholes Group	210p (+11p)
Wassall	295p (+10p)
Wolseley	975p (+73p)
Legal & General	493p (+10p)
Land Sec	706p (+11p)
Wellcome	643p (+10p)
BAA	1001p (+13p)
Evans Halshaw	549p (+17p)

FALLS:

Attwoods	132p (-13p)
Ulster TV	714p (-10p)
Tibbet & Britten	830p (-10p)
Takare	249p (-17p)
Presidio	118p (-40p)

Closing Prices Page 31

FT-SE VOLUMES

ASDA Gp	8,800	Cadbury	3,600	MEPC	616	Scot Power	2,200
Abbey Natl	2,600	Caradon	2,500	Marks Spr	3,100	Sears	478
Alld-Lyons	602	Carlton Cms	1,100	NFC	1,300	Svrn Trent	736
Anglian W	840	Coats Vyla	464	NatWst Bk	3,700	Shell Trans	3,200
Argyll Gp	4,200	Cm Union	688	Nat Power	1,900	Siebe	1,700
Arjo Wiggn	540	Courtaulds	1,600	Nth Wst W	1,300	SmKl Bch	1,200
AB Foods	221	Enterpr Oil	254	Nthrn Rds	844	Smith Nph	5,600
BAA	588	Forte	1,900	P & O	3,100	Southern Elec	192
BAT Inds	3,700	GRE	1,100	Pearson	424	Std Chartd	1,400
BOC	289	GUS	1,800	PowerGen	1,400	Sun Alliance	2,000
BP	6,200	Gen Acc	1,200	Prudential	2,800	Tl Gp	1,100
BTR	6,800	Gen Elec	2,500	RMC	174	TSB	4,100
BT	3,700	Glaxo	2,700	RTZ	1,900	Tesco	5,400
Bk of Scot	2,200	Granada	2,800	Rank Org	n/a	Thames W	991
Barclays	12,000	Grand Met	3,500	Reckitt Col	381	Thrn EMI	643
Bass	4,200	Guinness	1,900	Redland	1,500	Tomkins	5,100
Blue Circle	1,500	HSBC	3,200	Reed Intl	1,100	Unilever	1,800
Boots	1,000	Hanson	15,000	Rentokil	954	Utd Bisc	891
Bowater	1,100	ICI	2,000	Reuters	1,400	Vodafone	1,300
Brit Aero	1,100	Inchcape	3,500	Rolls Royce	4,300	Warburg (SG)	616
Brit Airways	2,200	Kingfisher	984	Ryl Ins	1,500	Wellcome	1,800
Brit Gas	5,000	Ladbroke	2,000	Ryl Bk Scot	892	Whitbread	694
Brit Steel	3,700	Land Secs	468	Sainsbury	3,200	Wllms Hld	3,800
Burmah Cast	190	Legal & Gn	447	Schroders	67	Wolseley	1,300
Cable Wire	7,100	Lloyds Bk	3,900	Scot & New	1,100	Zeneca	1,000

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	3862.55 (-0.43)
S&P Composite	468.24 (+0.85)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Av'ge	20508.85 (-17.30)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9863.56 (-116.51)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	427.27 (+3.37)
Sydney: AO	2172.5 (-6.7)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2165.59 (+20.42)
FT 30 share	2568.5 (+23.2)
Brussels:	
General	7683.34 (+8.48)
Paris: CAC-40	2258.52 (+43.50)
Zurich: SKA Gen	710.50 (+6.40)
London:	
FT A All-Share	1646.57 (+13.79)
FT Non Financials	1772.13 (+14.26)
FT Gold Mines	218.9 (+5.6)
FT Fixed Interest	121.20 (-0.48)
FT Govt Secs	100.50 (+0.41)
Bargains	33616
SEAQ Volume	616.1m
USM (Datastrm)	166.45 (-0.05)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
March 7	March 18	June 16	June 27

Call options were taken out on 15/3/94: Aminex, Avesco, Cannon St. Caverdale, Edmond Hldgs, Eurotunnel Uts, LASMO, LBMS, Regalian Props, Remison Gold.
Put: Eurotunnel.
Puts & Calls: Cannon St, LASMO, LBMS, Tullow Oil.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 70649	Mar 94	3227.0	3278.0	3227.0	3272.0	20154
	Jun 94	3236.0	3287.0	3236.0	3283.0	6615
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 437504	Mar 94	94.81	94.82	94.81	94.82	6148
	Jun 94	94.85	94.91	94.84	94.90	15796
	Sep 94	94.72	94.79	94.72	94.79	9469
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 8872	Jun 94	95.64	95.65	95.64	95.68	208
	Sep 94	95.25	95.26	95.25	95.29	51
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 853649	Jun 94	94.56	94.60	94.54	94.60	37041
	Sep 94	94.82	94.90	94.82	94.87	33987
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 144266	Mar 94	111-23	112-31	111-23	113-00	1228
	Jun 94	110-20	112-05	110-19	112-01	74637
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 94	110.17	110.25	110.06	110.20	2077
	Sep 94				109.13	0
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 212650	Jun 94	96.82	97.95	96.76	97.88	190499
	Sep 94	97.01	97.60	97.01	97.66	157
German Gov Bd Bobl Previous open interest: 3336	Jun 94	100.92	101.44	100.92	101.47	1226
	Sep 94					0
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 27540	Jun 94	94.15	94.20	94.15	94.20	1166
	Sep 94	94.35	94.42	94.35	94.42	987
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 39820	Jun 94	96.18	96.20	96.16	96.19	2519
	Sep 94	96.24	96.27	96.24	96.27	687
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 97532	Jun 94	110.60	112.86	110.45	112.40	56309
	Sep 94				111.90	0

Exchange index compared with 1985 was up at 80.7 (day's range 80.7).

EXCHANGE RATES

Mkt Rates for March 15	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.8389-2.8457	2.8396-2.8431	par-¼ds	par-¼ds
Brussels	52.03-52.21	52.03-52.13	2-6ds	11-15ds
Copenhagen	9.8630-9.8920	9.8650-9.8800	¼-¾ds	1¾-2¾ds
Dublin	1.0380-1.0415	1.0381-1.0411	7-10ds	22-27ds
Frankfurt	2.5271-2.5324	2.5283-2.5316	⅛-¼ds	⅜-¾ds
Lisbon	258.99-260.60	259.57-260.20	101-118ds	256-300ds
Madrid	207.14-207.86	207.30-207.60	51-62ds	120-178ds
Milan	2491.60-2499.00	2492.50-2496.50	6-8ds	19-21ds
Montreal	2.0306-2.0366	2.0321-2.0351	0.30-0.24pr	0.45-0.40pr
New York	1.4908-1.4924	1.4914-1.4924	0.23-0.21pr	0.48-0.47pr
Oslo	10.9420-10.9700	10.9420-10.9520	¾-¼pr	⅜-¼pr
Paris	8.5880-8.6230	8.5890-8.6030	¾-1ds	2¼-2¼ds
Stockholm	11.6980-11.7740	11.7400-11.7630	1½-2¾ds	5¼-6¼ds
Tokyo	158.01-158.69	158.01-158.27	¼-¾pr	1¼-1pr
Vienna	17.78-17.82	17.79-17.82	par-1¼ds	¾-3ds
Zurich	2.1446-2.1506	2.1446-2.1476	¼-¼pr	⅜-¼pr

Source: Extel. Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.4883-1.4908
Australia dollar	2.0684-2.0728
Bahrain dinar	0.556-0.568
Brazil cruzeiro*	1107.84-1109.79
Cyprus pound	0.755-0.765
Finland markka	8.1395-8.2555
Greece drachma	364.25-371.25
Hong Kong dollar	11.5238-11.5331
India rupee	46.34-47.30
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4395-0.4495
Malaysia ringgit	4.0726-4.0903
Mexico peso	4.85-4.95
New Zealand dollar	2.9854-2.9917
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5295-5.6555
Singapore dollar	2.3667-2.3699
S Africa rand (fin)	6.7867-6.8362
S Africa rand (com)	5.1475-5.1555
U A E dirham	5.4155-5.5395

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Australia	1.3866-1.3885
Austria	11.92-11.93
Belgium (Com)	34.98-35.02
Canada	1.3618-1.3628
Denmark	6.6137-6.6187
France	5.7695-5.7745
Germany	1.6693-1.6993
Hong Kong	7.7248-7.7253
Ireland	1.433-1.436
Italy	1672.1-1673.6
Japan	106.55-106.65
Malaysia	2.73-2.74
Netherlands	1.9075-1.9085
Norway	7.3626-7.3636
Portugal	174.5-174.8
Singapore	1.5865-1.5875
Spain	139.09-139.19
Sweden	7.8716-7.8816
Switzerland	1.442-1.443

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¼ Finance Hse 5½
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 6 Low 5 Week fixed: 5¾
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 4⁹⁄₁₆ ; 3 mth 4¼ . Sell: 2 mth 4⁷⁄₁₆ ; 3 mth: 4¼ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	4⁹⁄₁₆-4⁷⁄₁₆	4⁹⁄₁₆-4⁷⁄₁₆	4⁹⁄₁₆-4⁷⁄₁₆	4⁹⁄₁₆-4⁷⁄₁₆	
Sterling Money Rates:	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛
Interbank	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛
Overnight: open 6 . close 5 .					
Local Authority Deps:	5⅛	n/a	5⅛	5⅛	5⅛
Sterling CDs:	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛
Dollar CDs:	3.50	n/a	3.77	4.03	4.52
Building Society CDs:	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛	5¼-5⅛

ECGD: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: Feb 28, 1994 Agreed rates Mar 26, 1994 to Apr 25, 1994 Schemes III: 6.50%. Reference rate Feb 1, 1994 to Feb 28, 1994 Scheme IV & V: 5.265%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar	3⅛-2⅞	3⅛-3⅛	3⅛-3⅛	4⅛-3⅞	3⅛-2⅞
Deutschemark	6⅛-5⁹⁄₁₆	6-5⁹⁄₁₆	5⁹⁄₁₆-5⁷⁄₁₆	5⁹⁄₁₆-5⁷⁄₁₆	6⅛-5⅛
French Franc	6⅛-5⁹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-6⅛	6⅛-5⁹⁄₁₆	6⅛-6⅛
Swiss Franc	4⅛-4	4⅛-4⅛	4⅛-4	4-3⅞	4⅛-3⅞
Yen	2⅛-2	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-2⅛	2⅛-1⅞

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Extel 4/6)

Bullion: Open $386.30-386.70 Close: $386.10-386.60 High: $387.00-387.50 Low: $385.40-385.90 Krugerrand: $384.75-386.75 (£257.75-259.75)
Sovereigns: Old $90.00-92.00 (£60.00-62.00) New $90.00-92.00 (£60.00-62.00)
Platinum: $403.65 (£270.55) Silver: $5.42 (£3.625) Palladium: $133.25 (£89.30)

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Lyon 600	39	50	59	6½	23	30½
(*628½) 650	11½	25	34½	30½	51	57½
Argyll 240	19½	28½	34	4½	15	19½
(*254) 260	8	17½	26½	14	26½	30½
ASDA 60	4½	8	10	3½	6	8
(*60¼) 70	1½	4½	6	11	13	15
Boots 550	16½	32	42	16	32½	37
(*550½) 600	3½	13	22½	53	65	69
Bt Airways 420	27	33	41½	11½	25½	31½
(*428) 460	5	16	24½	36	50	55
BP 360	14	24	31½	10½	20	33
(*361) 390	3½	11½	18½	32	38	42½
Br Steel 140	9½	15½	19½	4½	10	13
(*144½) 160	2	7	11	17½	22½	25
C & W 450	21½	38½	—	13	22½	—
(*456½) 475	9½	26½	—	25	41	—
CU 550	44	60½	65	4	12	20½
(*586) 600	12	30	36½	24½	34	45
ICI 750	40	67½	77	9½	24½	37
(*779) 800	19½	39½	51	33	48½	62
Kingfishr 600	35½	49½	60½	12	31	41
(*619) 650	12	27	38	39½	60	68½
Land Sec 700	19	31	39	14	34	37½
(*703) 750	5½	11½	20½	50½	69	71½
M & S 420	16	25	33	8½	20½	22½
(*424½) 460	3½	9½	16½	37	46	47½
Nat West 460	44	57½	66	5	12½	19
(*498) 500	17½	33½	45½	19½	29	38½
Sainsbury 360	32½	41	49	4½	17	21
(*386) 390	12½	24	32½	16	31½	35½
Shell 650	40	57	64½	4½	13½	22
(*681½) 700	9½	28½	36	26½	35½	46½
SmKl Bch 390	22½	35½	46	11	24	31½
(*398½) 420	9	22½	32½	29	40½	48½
Storehse 220	13	21	26	5	15	15
(*226½) 240	4	11½	16½	17	26½	26½
Trafalgar 105	9½	16	—	5	9½	—
(*109) 115	5½	11½	—	10½	15½	—
Unilever 1050	43	63	83	16	30½	43
(*1084½) 1100	13½	39½	58	47	57	68½
Zeneca 700	56	77½	89	5½	18½	30½
(*745½) 750	22	47	60	23½	39	53

Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
Grnd Met 460	36½	49	58½	8½	17½	23
(*484) 500	14½	27½	37½	22½	37	42½
Ladbroke 200	16	24½	30½	7	12½	19
(*207) 220	6½	14½	21½	18½	24	30½
Utd Bisc 330	13	23	29	17½	23½	29½
(*333) 360	4½	12½	17½	42	45½	49½

March 15, 1994 Tot: 40677 Call: 17984 Put: 22693 FT-SE Call: 8877 Put: 13278
*Underlying security price.

Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
BAA 1000	30½	53½	73½	23½	47½	55½
(*1001½) 1050	11	31½	51½	56	76½	84½
Thames W 500	44½	52	57	3½	16	19½
(*537½) 550	10½	22	29	22½	42½	46½

Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAT Ind 460	30½	43	53	11	21	28½
(*486½) 500	12½	23	31	34½	43½	51½
BTR 360	35	46½	53	5	9	16
(*389) 390	15	28	35	15½	22	29½
Br Aero 500	50½	69½	86½	27	40	52½
(*519) 550	30½	46½	63½	57½	67	79½
Br Telcm 360	36½	44½	49	3	11½	15½
(*419½) 420	16	25½	31	13	25	29½
Cadbury 460	18	—	—	16	—	—
(*493) 542	4	—	—	50½	—	—
Guinness 500	26	38	51	23	33	42
(*509½) 550	6	18½	30	58	65½	72½
GEC 300	26½	31½	35	4½	11	14½
(*319½) 330	9½	14½	20½	17½	21	30½
Hanson 280	12	17½	22	9½	14½	18
(*281) 300	4½	9½	14	22	26½	30
LASMO 130	13	16	23½	10½	16	20½
(*131) 140	7½	14½	18½	17½	22½	26½
Lucas 200	17½	25	29½	6½	11	17½
(*211½) 220	7	15	19½	17½	33	28½
Pilkingtn 180	21½	26½	31	4	8½	11½
(*195½) 200	8½	15½	19½	12½	16	21
Prudential 300	26	31½	36½	6	11½	17
(*322) 330	7½	16½	22½	23½	28	33
Reed Intl 550	34	45	55	23	30½	43
(*570½) 600	11	33	33½	51	63	76
Royal Ins 260	26½	36	41½	6½	12½	18½
(*277½) 280	15	25	31½	15½	22	28½
Tesco 220	12	19	24½	12½	16½	21½
(*223) 240	4½	11	16½	27	29½	33½
Vodafone 550	63	60	75½	17	29½	41½
(*571) 600	17	30	51½	44	57½	67½
Williams 360	26	33½	40½	11	17½	23
(*407½) 420	11	19	27	28½	34½	41

FT-SE INDEX (*3266½)

	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350	3400
Calls						
Mar	122	79	35	9	2	1
Apr	146	109	78	52	32	20
May	175	139	111	83	62	44
Jun	194	160	131	104	83	63
Dec	—	251	—	194	—	150
Puts						
Mar	1	3	12	39	84	134
Apr	25	39	58	82	113	150
May	48	63	84	107	136	168
Jun	84	80	100	117½	132	162
Dec	—	151	—	192	—	245

Series	Calls Mar	Jun	Sep	Puts Mar	Jun	Sep
Abby Nat 460	33	45½	57	1	9½	17½
(*469½) 500	4	21½	34½	14	27	37
Amstrad 35	3	5½	7½	1	3	4½
(*37) 40	1	3½	5½	4½	6	7½
Barclays 550	12½	35	48½	8	25½	38½
(*552½) 600	2	15½	28½	50	57	68½
Blue Circ 330	28	37	46½	1	9½	17
(*359) 360	7	19½	30

Back from jobs summit to trough of unemployment

Philip Bassett leaves Detroit with the feeling that today's UK jobs data will be more significant for those out of work than the G7 discussions

From the rhetoric of Detroit to the reality of Britain: after flying home this morning from the G7 jobs summit in the US, ministers are faced with announcing Britain's latest unemployment figures.

While UK ministers and officials would give no indication of the market-sensitive figures, they emphasised after last month's surprising 15,500 rise that there could well be further erratic figures in what the Government sees as a clear downward trend. David Hunt, the Employment Secretary, said yesterday that he remained convinced unemployment would be lower at the end of the year than at its start.

But though today's figures will give a new indication of whether he is right to be so confident, Britain's level of registered unemployment is still high at 9.9 per cent given the economic recovery the Government claims is well under way.

How far that tentative recovery is putting people back to work is likely to be better signalled today by new statistics other than the unemployment total. Quarterly figures on employment, and the results of the Government's latest three-monthly Labour Force Survey, will show whether the fall in unemployment over the past year is yet translating into jobs.

That, more than the high labour market theory which characterised the G7 Detroit jobs summit, will be of interest to Britain's 2.75 million registered unemployed. But UK ministers were careful not to dismiss the outcomes of the G7 meeting.

"I thought this was a good idea from the word go," Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, said yesterday, at the close of the conference.

Henning Christophersen, European Union Vice-President, was more sceptical, however, urging that it should not be repeated: "It's a one-off arrangement as preparation for the full G7 summit in Naples." But Al Gore, the US Vice President, was rhapsodic: "This will be looked back upon as one of the most important turning points in postwar dialogue between the US and other industrialised nations."

As President Clinton, the conference's progenitor, put it in his keynote address in Detroit: "For years, the G7 nations consulted with each other about the great issues of macroeconomic and global finance. Today we are beginning a serious conversation about the economic well-being of ordinary people."

But claims that the conference showed a "remarkable" level of consensus and agreement were beginning to crack well before the eight delegations — the countries of the G7, plus the EU — headed for Detroit airport.

Mr Clarke acknowledged that there were "diminishing levels" of agreement over such issues that have an impact on jobs, such as wage setting and social benefit costs. Robert Reich, US Labour Secretary, agreed there was "not a unanimity" over the respective roles and achievements the public and private sectors had in creating new jobs in Europe and the US. Yannos Papantoniou, chairman of the EU's Ecofin committee of finance ministers, said there had been "nuances of difference" on key issues.

Such careful summit-speak disguised, as it always does, what Mr Reich publicly called "courteous sharp arguments" and what backroom officials, late at night in the conference hotel bars, privately called rows. Mr Reich was said to be furious with Mr Clarke over the brutal way the Chancellor was said to have promoted Britain's line on greater labour market flexibility, the Germans had been arrogantly dismissive, the Italians indecisive, and so on.

Picking through the sometimes wild rumours that inevitably circulate at a closed conference, at which the journalists outnumbered the participants around the oval conference table by about 30 to 1, the key disagreements focus on three areas.

First, demand management. Though UK ministers like Mr Clarke denied it, EU officials attending the conference's closed sessions said there had been clear disagreements over the issue of the degree of economic demand management necessary to cut unemployment, with the US pressing for monetary and fiscal action and the UK insisting only one low inflation and stable policy. President Clinton has signalled his intention to return to this issue in Naples.

Second, flexibility. The UK pressed hard its deregulatory approach based on increased labour flexibility, but ran foul of strong opposition, neatly summarised by Mr Reich, who said — though he subsequently tried to deny it — in an interview published by the US government: "When you hear the word flexibility, watch your wallets."

His remark, coupled with his analysis that finance ministers who stressed flexibility — who include Mr Clarke — were really talking about the "freedom of employers to fire people and to reduce wages", while employment ministers meant flexibility to mean upskilling the workforce and increasing its mobility, was clearly embarrassing to Britain.

But UK ministers tried to finesse it by saying that America lays less emphasis on flexibility and more on demand management because the US already has a flexible labour market. The Chancellor said yesterday: "In terms of labour market flexibility, the Americans have already got what we would like to get nearer to."

The third area is social benefits. The extent to which buttressing social security provision could and should be provided, and how far its provision increased costs and therefore pushed up unemployment, remains a central division. Padraig Flynn, EU Social Affairs Commissioner, made it clear that there was no question of Europe moving away from its principles of social solidarity, while the US stressed the importance of tougher welfare programmes that moved people back into work.

Such arguments circling around the conference chamber were thrown into perspective six miles away at an autoplant which, had the UK ministers had time to see it, almost exactly encapsulated not the deregulated employment they so much admire in the US, but the rigid work practices Britain says need to be swept away if jobs are to be created.

At its Jefferson North assembly plant in the east of motor city, Chrysler is currently producing, every day, 508 $30,000 Jeep Grand Cherokee off-roaders. Outside the gleaming, $1.2billion factory, opened just two years ago, a sign sternly reads "No applications received here" — warning off job-seekers in work-hungry Detroit, where overall unemployment is more than twice the national average.

Behind that sign lies the stark facts of jobless life: 23,000 people are already listed as registered applicants for a job at the plant, which currently employs just 2,600. With such numbers, doesn't it mean that the vast majority of applicants will never find work there? "That has to be true," admits personnel manager Michael Jessamy.

It need not be so: more could be employed at the plant, even though it is, with 206 robots, highly automated. But those with jobs will not sanction it. In Jefferson North — a full union shop where no one works who is not a member of the United Auto Workers' union — average hours worked are 55-60 a week, with an average wage, at $50,000, way above that of a UK car worker.

Management officials acknowledge they could employ more people if those currently there worked fewer hours; UAW officials laugh openly at the suggestion, summing up the plant workers' refusal to agree to more of the 23,000 applicants being employed in one word: pay cheques.

Such job insiderism contrasted sharply with the rhetoric of good job growth propounded by the US at the summit, and seemed little real hope to the black teenagers lounging on the steps of the Detroit Jobs Corps Centre a few blocks away, to whom working at Chrysler plant is probably as much a mirage as the G7 summit downtown.

But despite the scepticism with which some greeted the jobs summit, and the gap between its policy analysis and prescription and the reality outside between work and the lack of it, the summit will be judged to have been a success if only by focusing attention on unemployment.

Laura Tyson, chair of President Clintoo's Council of Economic Advisers, struck the most optimistic note on jobs when she said yesterday: "There is a fair unanimity that the worst of the cyclical problems in the G7 nations is probably behind us and we are entering a growth period." Today's unemployment figures in Britain will give the first evidence after Detroit of whether she and the G7 are right.

David Hunt still expects a decline in UK unemployment this year

TEMPUS

Safe as houses

MAKING money out of slim construction margins has always been a bit of a headache for builders. Profits come late in the contract and are often subject to the vagaries of litigation, with claims for cost-overruns, failure to deliver on target and changes in specification. Would we not make more money, think the builders, if we had an equity stake in the project?

Wimpey barely made a profit in construction last year and, having repaired its balance sheet thanks to a £104 million shareholder contribution, the company feels that it has the financial clout to do more than just build to order. Partnerships with the public sector should not distress investors unduly, but Wimpey's ambitions run to investing in other projects, including remand centres and treatment works, and even a spot of property trading is not ruled out. The homes market is saving the sector from penury, and Wimpey, which spent the best part of £100 million on land in the second half of last year, is no exception, with over two thirds of its profits coming from housebuilding. House prices are rising again. The smart money bought cheaply in 1992 with the consequence that land prices are now rocketing. Wimpey has some way to go to raise its 6 per cent margins to the double digit level of the top performers and the company is now buying land in a bull market. Equity stakes could help Wimpey to generate a better return on its new funds, and the sale of the remaining properties should release further cash for investment. The danger is that the company will be tempted to lock funds into the sort of long-term projects that in recent years brought it to grief.

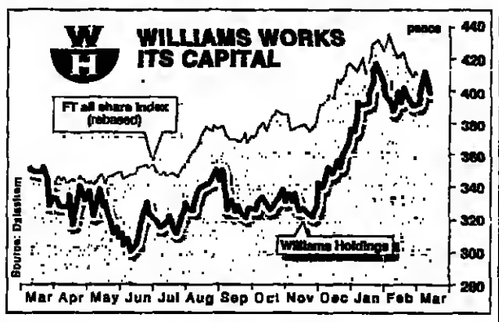
Williams Hldgs

IF THERE is anyone still carping about the lack of a designated finance director at Williams Holdings, the company proved yesterday that it has enough accountants in Derby capable of squeezing surplus pennies out of the business.

Cash generation, traditionally a sore point and one which William's critics have bghted on in the past, received a sharp boost in 1993 and enabled the company to constrain its rise in borrowings from £150 million to £192 million in a year in which cash invested in acquisitions exceeded £100 million. Growth in operating profits improved the flow of funds, but Williams is also adopting more flexible manning and better stock control, all of which accounts for a switch from a £20 million investment in working capital in 1992 to last year's cash inflow of £2.3 million.

In the Williams culture, there is always room to increase your margins, but the company will be hard-pressed to improve a return on sales of near 20 per cent, which leaves further growth dependent on higher volumes. Some of that could come from raising its market share through deals with retailers but the company also needs growth in construction markets.

If volume growth allows Nigel Rudd and colleagues to increase the throttle, the company could be on £225 million in profits by 1995, putting the shares on a modest forward multiple of 15.



Saatchi

THE apparent yawning gap between Charles Scott, chief executive of Saatchi & Saatchi, and his chairman has been depicted as a classic rift between mere bean-counters and proper advertising men. However, it is hard not to agree with Mr Scott that the only way forward is by the arduous task of going out and winning clients.

Mr Scott has bristled at suggestions that Saatchi's costs are growing unchecked, saying that the real reduction for 1993 was 1 per cent, with rather more due this year. This hardly suggests much culling of the heavy hitters on top whack, given the continuing de-manning that the group saw last year. Now is the time, says Mr Cook, for them to earn their salaries.

Saatchi's own prognostications on falling revenues suggest a 1994 pre-tax figure of about £30 million, putting the shares on a multiple of a hefty 25 times this year's earnings. The group is going a little soft on earlier hopes of a resumption of dividend payments for this year. The best boost to sentiment would be a few big business wins in the US.

Medeva

MEDEVA had an abysmal 1993. As the company was hit by management and regulatory problems, the City lost confidence in it and the shares took a pounding. Since then, the chairman and chief executive's role has been split, the management team has been strengthened, and talk of acquisition-led growth has changed to emphasis on the right balance between takeovers and organic growth.

All well and good, but an agreement to pay two departing directors consultancy fees to hunt out targets suggests that Medeva is still acquisition-minded. With about half its turnover generated by products with sales of less than £5 million, the company needs an acquisition.

Zero gearing and net cash inflow of £45 million last year give the company room to manoeuvre, and it has indicated that it could cover borrowings of up to £130 million if the right deal came along.

Wolseley

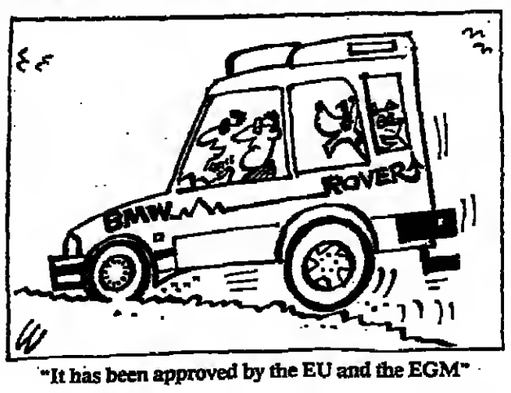
WOLSELEY'S bumper performance exceeded even optimists' growth forecasts and suggests that a recovery in the housing market is at last driving some volume through builders' merchants. By keeping a lid on costs in its Plumb Center chain, Wolseley has shown that textbook operational gearing can work in practice by driving most of the new sales directly through into profit.

The bulls should not, however, get carried away. Wolseley's spurt of growth is unlikely to be maintained at the same rate in the second half because of the first-half bias of the Enertech acquisition. More important is the likelihood that costs will rise in the long term as the company takes on staff and builds up stock to cope with renewed demand.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Will RTZ givim 60?

IF MINING group RTZ seriously wants to muck in with the locals when development of the fabulously rich Lihir gold project in Papua New Guinea gets under way, then chairman Sir Derek Birkin and all other RTZ executives should take early lessons in pidgin English and master the colourful phrases. Such scholarship will ensure that they will be handed a pick and shovel when they call for one to turn the first sod on Lihir, and not a 10-ton front-end loader, or a dressed chicken. Sir Derek must not call for a helicopter when desiring to hop from one exploration hill to another, but for a "*mix master bilong Papa God*". He should learn to speak not of going to cultural shows, but to "*sing songs*", and should be spy a crocodile, he should cry in a loud voice "*puck, puck!*", with equal emphasis on both words. A stillson spanner is thus a *pukpuk spanner* (crocodile spanners, from the fact that it has two sets of teeth that fit together rather well), while an adjustable spanner is a "*wokabout spanner*", i.e. a spanner that moves. If he wants to explain that he is in a hurry, then he should say "*hariap*". The purist wishing politely to explain that he wishes to get things done quickly should merely mouth "*givim 60*", which is the equivalent in English of "lets have a go", and is derived from the days when only dirt roads existed in PNG, and to go 60 mph was breakneck speed. For crazy, say "*longlong*", or "*mi longlong nau*" — I am confused/crazy now. To describe something as skinny, say "*bun nating*", equivalent to "bone nothing". But you don't have to be a miner to join in pidgin talk, and herewith some useful phrases should ordinary travellers be at a dinner party. Ask your host how old he is by saying: "*How much Christmas you got?*" Noting that your host has a moustache/beard/stubble, say "*manus gras*". Telling a fellow guest to keep quiet would be "*pasim mans*" (fasten your mouth). To note somebody is drunk say "*spark*". To leave is to "*go pinis*" — literally go finish, and if you feel you are about to be sick, the useful phrase is "*I got waia loos*" (it has a wire loose). Sir Derek will, I trust, refrain from practising pidgin at RTZ's annual meeting.



"It has been approved by the EU and the EGM"

Age of innocence

NINETY years on, other people's diaries from the turn of the century make alarming reading. From a potted history of Misima, an island 600 km east of Papua New Guinea's capital Port Moresby, and where gold has been dug up for many a year, come the following entries ... 1892 Brother Samuel Fellows (Australian Methodist Missiooary Society) arrives at Penaeati — plays harmonium and preaches on Misima south coast — is tempted by shameless young women. From a 1908 entry — Sir Hubert Murray talks to August Degen (Misima miner). Degen asks: How are the French? Murray replies as far as he knows they are all right. Degen: "They are a bad lot the French. They are like the natives; they should get a hammering every five years".

Baring up

IN THE best traditions of Chinese walls — and royal families — various investment teams from Warburgs are travelling separately throughout Australia, though this might just confuse the locals. Julian Baring, the gold fund guru, and Robert Weinburg, the gold analyst who spoke at the Australian Gold Conference, were in Kalgoorlie one day and in Perth the next. And then, lo and behold, Euan Worthington and Oliver Baring, Julian's cousin, from Warburgs corporate division, arrived Down Under. It just needs the other cousin Guy Baring, formely of Australian mining group CRA, to show up, and investors will be seeing triple.

Lights out

FROM a very serious study of the second oldest profession in town *On the Game* by AN Bingley, and relative to Kalgoorlie, where gold mining started in 1893 and prostitution started just one year later, comes rule 8 from a list for employees at one house in Hay Street which commands: "The last girl to finish work must turn off the verandah lights".

Money lines

ENCOURAGING to know that help is never far away in Australia, and that from any public telephone visitors can dial a recorded information service on a 0055 line. Under "financial services lines" comes: How to be a Millionaire; Don't trust Anybody; and Using other people's money. There is also a TV soap gossip line and an "Insult Line". British Telecom ... please note!

COLIN CAMPBELL
Kununurra
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CONSISTENT STRATEGIC VISION

	1993	1992
	£m	
Turnover	832.7	785.9
Profit before interest	60.0	60.7
Profit before tax	53.4	55.0
Earnings per share	23.1p	23.0p
Ordinary divideod	14.5p	14.0p

Copies of the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 1st January 1994, from which the above is an extract, are available from 29th March from the Secretary, Delta plc, 1 Kingsway, London WC2B 6XF. Telephone 071-836 3535.

ENGINEERING · INDUSTRIAL SERVICES

Williams Holdings believes prospects are best for years

By Susan Gilchrist

WILLIAMS Holdings, the locks to building products conglomerate, has delivered an upbeat message about its prospects after a strong rise in underlying profits.

Nigel Rudd, co-founder and chairman, said Williams was emerging from recession as a more efficient and competitive company. Prospects were better than they had been for years, he added.

His remarks came despite a small drop in pre-tax profits from £157.4 million to £153.2 million for the year to December 31. The fall was due to a £17.1 million exceptional loss relating to the sale of the group's engineering businesses last December. Excluding one-off items, profits rose 13 per cent from £151.3 million to £170.3 million.

Mr Rudd said the seven acquisitions made last year had strengthened the group's newly-defined three core businesses of fire protection, security and building products. The cost of acquisitions during the year was £157.6 million, with £3.1 million spent on reorganisation. Mr Rudd said the group is still on the acquisition trail.

The expected sale of the electronics division, which has been hit by the downturn in the German car industry, is looking unlikely in the near future. Roger Carr, chief executive, said: "The likelihood of it being purchased by an outsider at a price we would find acceptable is very low."

The strongest growth came from the building products business in North America, where underlying operating profits grew 20 per cent. That, Mr Carr said, was driven by new products, which initially enjoy higher margins, and the benefits of a cost reduction programme. The building products business in Europe held margins against the backdrop of an intensely competitive market. Mr Carr said profits improved thanks to new product launches and the decision to push more British products through the group's expanding European distribution network.

The profitability of the fire protection division slipped as a result of the acquisition of Thorn's fire protection business, which manufactures lower margin products and incurred reorganisation costs. The continuing weakness of the aerospace sector also had an adverse affect.

A final dividend of 7.75p (7.5p) brings the total for the year to 12.75p (12.5p). Mr Rudd said that was in keeping with the policy of rebuilding dividend cover from 1.5 times to about 2.0 times.

Tempus, page 29

JOHN MANNING

Nigel Rudd, left, and Roger Carr say Williams is more efficient and competitive

Winnings cut to £23m at Crockfords

By Patricia Tehan

CROCKFORDS, the Mayfair casino that reversed into the shell of TV-am last September, has reported a £23.2 million profit for 1993, down from £37.9 million. Last year's profit figure principally reflects gaming activities because TV-am ceased trading at the end of 1992.

Operating profits from continuing operations rose from £19.8 million to £23 million. There is a final dividend of 2.5p, equivalent to a total dividend of 7.5p for the full year.

Garry Nesbitt, the chairman, said that prospects for this year are good. "I am encouraged that attendances remain high and that ... we have been successful in building upon our base of high-value players," he said.

At the time of Crockford's market debut, concern was expressed that half of the firm's profits came from just ten high-rollers. Mr Nesbitt said that this was still the case because the company tends to focus on its top ten players, who tend to be different each year. However, he said, Crockfords had attracted more high-rollers last year.

Mr Nesbitt said that the company is still looking into the acquisition of London casinos at the middle to upper end of the market. He added: "Where appropriate, we will also seek suitable casino acquisition or start-up opportunities in Europe and other overseas areas where gaming is well regulated."

He said the number of London casinos remained at 21 last year, but casino gaming income rose by 34 per cent, to £304 million. Of this, Crockford's share was £51.3 million.

There was a £1.9 million release of provisions in respect of TV-am leases disposed of last year.

Goldfinger takes dabs with a difference

From Colin Campbell in Kalgoorlie

FINGERS are not alone in having individual identities that can be fingerprinted.

Gold, diamonds, glass, steel, and even cannabis can be finger-printed, using a process developed by an English-born analytical chemist, Dr John Watling, who works in Australia for the Minerals Department's Chemistry Centre in Perth.

Dr Watling's work, in association with Dr Hugh Herbert, has been accepted in various gold theft court cases in Western Australia. The Gold Stealing Detection Unit of Western Australia estimates that more than 1 per cent of the state's gold is stolen each year. At today's prices, that amounts to more than A$20 million (£10 million).

Enquiries about further applications of his work have come from all over the world. With more heavenly intentions, York Minster wants 13th century gold leaf examined. Dr Watling's opinion was even sought in a case that involved four tons of gold found at Heathrow that had been coated in lead. When a fork-lift truck broke under the weight of what was believed to be a cargo of lead ingots, police became somewhat suspicious, and called for Dr Watling's help. In essence, the scientists use what is known in their terms as a laser ablation inductively coupled plasma spectrometer, the accuracy of which is within one part per billion.

Dr Watling says that each geological region has unique characteristics in terms of the minerals present and the pattern of their association with other minerals. Thus, a gold bar stolen from one mine and recovered by the police Gold Squad a thousand miles away can be traced to where it was originally mined. The technology can, and has, been used to investigate one of the mining industry's oldest tricks — the salting of mines. He said that cannabis can also be traced to where it has grown through the nutrients in the water and fertiliser. Diamonds, too, have a signature reflecting the area in which they were formed, and De Beers has "lent" Dr Watling three parcels of micro-diamonds so he can prove their source of origin.

Fundamental to the work is the build-up of a data bank, or master samples, from various deposits against which any suspect materials can be matched to prove origin.

He may be the darling of the honest and the scourge of the mobs, but at heart Dr Watling is an analytical chemist with a golden touch.

Graseby leaps ahead aided by defence work

GRASEBY, the electronics group, lifted 1993 pre-tax profits from £1 million to £9.6 million, aided by a fine performance by its technology defence businesses, and the lack of exceptional restructuring costs, which were £4.3 million in 1992. The group said its defence arm had "an exceptionally good year" with major orders completed, including a chemical agent monitor for the US Army. This let the technology division show operating profit of £4.2 million, up from £571,000 last time. The medical, product-monitoring, and environmental divisions had profit setbacks.

Paul Lester, chief executive, spoke of a change "from a group dependent upon the volatile defence and component sectors to an international instrument supplier in high value-added markets". Graseby, which said it is waiting to float its environmental business, Graseby Andersen, in the US, is cutting its final dividend to 3.3p (7.6p), making a total of 6.6p (10.9p) to allow for increased investment.

Everest Foods warning

EVEREST Foods, the West Midlands egg and chip producer, issued a profit warning as it unveiled an interim fall from £1.2 million to £1.1 million for the six months to November 30. Bob Gilbert, chairman, said profits for the full year were likely to be below market expectations. The trend towards economy products had put severe pressure on margins. The emphasis of the business is being turned from small retail outlets to large institutional catering accounts. The interim dividend is held at 1.2p with a scrip alternative.

Evans Halshaw soars

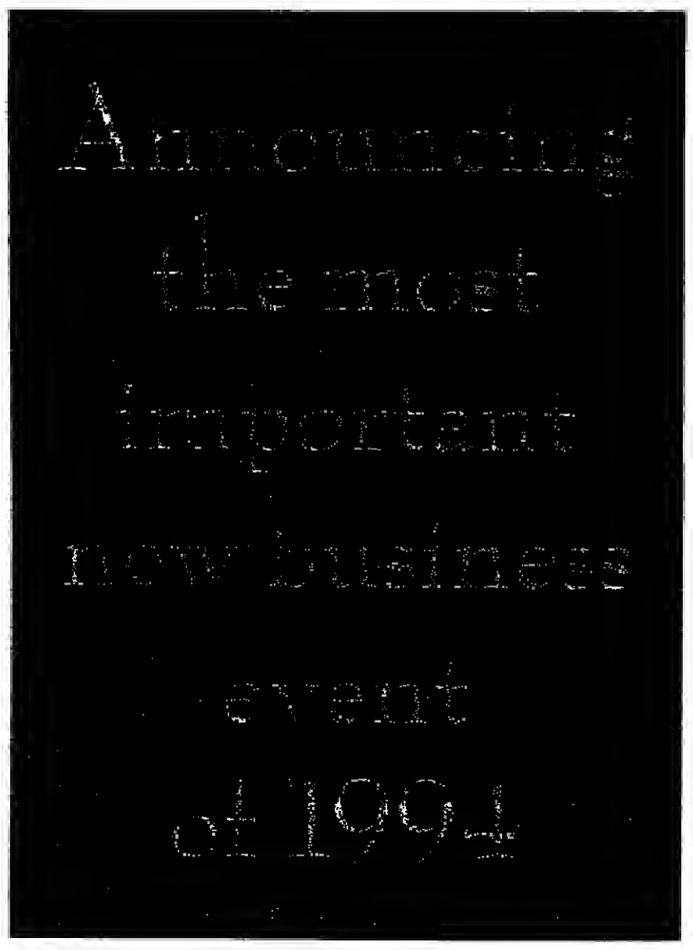
EVANS Halshaw, the multi-franchise motor dealer, said car sales had been buoyant in the first two months of 1994, making trading results better than they were in the opening weeks of last year. The company reported pre-tax profits of £7.8 million for the year ended December 31, recovering from £1.7 million in 1992. Earnings rose to 24.3p a share from 5.4p. Turnover increased to £404.7 million from £341.5 million. The final dividend is raised to 9.2p a share from 7.65p, making 13p for the year (11.25p).

UB buys in Poland

UNITED Biscuits has bought 80 per cent of one of Poland's leading biscuit manufacturers for £19 million cash. ZPC San, based in Jaroslaw, southeast Poland, is co-leader in the fast-growing Polish market. UB refused to disclose the company's profits, but said it achieved "good operating margins" on sales of about £15 million last year. UB said the move represented "the next important step in the development of McVitie's European business network".

Delta raises dividend

DELTA, the electrical cables and engineering group, yesterday sent an upbeat message to investors with its first dividend increase since 1991. The final dividend was lifted by 0.5p to 10.3p, making a total for the year to January 1 of 14.5p (14p). The dividend increase was made despite of a £1.6 million fall in pre-tax profits to £53.4 million. Profits benefited from a £1 million currency gain, which was offset by higher interest charges, up £1 million to £6.67 million.



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Nigerian profits boost Paterson Zochonis

By Our City Staff

STRONG trading in Nigeria and progress in Britain lifted profits 15 per cent at Paterson Zochonis, the soap to detergents group best known for its Cussons range. Pre-tax profits rose from £11.8 million to £13.6 million for the six months to November 30. The interim dividend rises from 2.35p to 2.45p.

The company performed well in Nigeria, its biggest African market, despite difficult local conditions. Progress was made in Kenya and Ghana, but sales fell in Congo and Cameroon. In Britain, the Cussons brands, such as Imperial Leather and Pearl, gained market share and now hold more than 20 per cent of the market. Alan Whittaker, finance director, said the sector continued to be intensely competitive. However, he said Cussons had held up well thanks to successful advertising campaigns, which had introduced younger consumers to the brands.

The group is encouraged by current trading and believes profits for the full year will be ahead of the £25.3 million achieved last time.

CASTLE COMMS. (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.13m
EPS: 10.2p (8.2p)
Div: 4.5p (4p)
Previous interim profits were £927,000. Turnover rose to £18.8 million from £16.9 million. Uplift in trading continued this year

EMESS (Fin)
Pre-tax: £4m
EPS: 1.5p (7.2p loss)
Div: 0.1p (0.1p)
There was a £10.6 million loss in previous year. Turnover was £131.2 million, against £150.6 million. Prospects improving

HALL ENGINEERING
Pre-tax: £8.56m (£2.36m)
EPS: 19.18p (1.67p loss)
Div: 3.02p, mkg 9.5p
Total dividend in previous year was 8.64p. Turnover rose to £146 million from £135.7 million. Gearing eased to 45% from 52%

LIONHEART (Fin)
Pre-tax: £1.77m
EPS: 0.49p (0.59p loss)
Div: 0.2p, mkg 0.3p
Loss in previous year was £870,000, with 0.2p total dividend. Turnover rose to £46.7 million from £43.6 million

SCHOLES GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £2.4m (£1.3m)
EPS: 4.3p (2.4p)
Div: 1.7p (1.6p)
Trading conditions still difficult despite upturn in housing market. Management continues focus on lower costs

Ransomes deeper in the red

By Martin Flanagan

RANSOMES, the grass machinery manufacturer, sank much deeper into the red in 1993 after significant exceptional restructuring charges. It has passed the final dividend.

After exceptional charges of £5.8 million, the group made a pre-tax loss of £8.9 million against a loss of £557,000 in 1992. Losses per share deepened to 26.1p from 11.5p, and the cumulative preference dividend due next month is also being passed.

Ransomes, which has eliminated a tier of management and reduced its divisions from four to two, said its commercial grass machinery operations failed to meet American and European expectations. In America, this was partly due to destocking by dealers trying to improve their finances, and by delays in introducing new products. Profits of the division, including industrial vehicles, fell from £6.9 million to £2.04 million before exceptional items. The property arm made a loss of £285,000, compared with a £184,000 profit last time.

The consumer division's profits rose from £2.7 million to £3.5 million, benefiting from growth of the "Laser" budget brand.

Ransomes said that its rationalisation programme was continuing and would include the closure of the American head office and warehouse facilities in America, France and Germany.

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As Deputy City Editor of the *Daily Mail*, from the time that Michael Walters entered financial journalism, the hurly-burley of the stock market has fascinated and often angered him. From the very beginning he has championed the small investor - revealing the 'secrets', ending dodgy deals, stopping dubious share pushers and saving his readers millions. "I've warned off villains galore", he says, "and despite the odd nasty threat, I am still here!"
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
524	345	Abbey Nat	490 †	+2	...	3.0	16.5
314	179	Allied Irish	205 †	...	...	4.7	∞
229½	130	Ant New 2	254½	...	...	1.0	20.0
3600½	2712½	Bankamerica	2807½	+5½	...	...	...
319	177	Bk of Ireland	264	...	...	4.7	16.5
480	325	Bk Lomd Ulst	430 †	...	20.0	3.5	∞
267	116½	Bank Scotland	197	+2	4.6	3.0	28.8
652	362	Barclays	555 †	+22	...	3.4	28.3
37	8	Carlisle	35½	...	...	...	...
655	395	Cater Allen	560	+1	28.0	6.2	...
180	85	Cattles	165	...	...	3.6	20.6
3485½	1545½	Chase Manh	2212½	+21½	...	...	...
2812½	1343½	Citicorp	2655½	+51½	...	...	...
571	281	Close Bros	525 †	+8	...	3.0	14.2
1153½	977½	Commercial	1145	+28½	...	3.0	...
1349½	1280½	Dominion Int	1329½	+21½	...	1.9	...
95	40	First Pac Fin	33	...	...	2.3	...
1651	876	Fuji Bank Y	1427½	-10½	...	0.4	...
329	143	Gerrard Nat	438	...	21.5	6.1	11.8
1113	490	HSBC	858 †	+6	23.5	3.5	∞
1133	474	HSBC HK	878 †	+4	23.5	3.2	∞
475	243	Hambros	384	-4	14.3	4.0	16.8
449	315	Joseph (I)	433	...	16.7	4.8	...
170	76	King Shaxson	151	...	8.0	7.5	...
693	312	Kleinwort Ben	532 †	+7	18.5	4.3	∞
660	492	Lloyds	599 †	+18	...	4.6	12.6
118	63	Lon Sec Bk	111 †	...	3.5	3.0	18.8
650½	222	Mat Advt Bk	575	-½	...	4.1	14.0
634	398	Nat West	487 †	+12	...	4.7	13.7
572	232	Provident	500 †	+1	16.0	4.0	∞
67	30	Ben Bros	64	...	0.3	1.1	68.0
528	207	Ryl Bk Scot	436	-2	...	3.5	19.7
1466	487	Schroders	1090	+22	...	1.4	21.7
1437	576	Stand Chart	1092 †	+17	...	2.7	10.7
201	145½	TSB	243 †	+5	...	4.0	10.6
206	78	Union	130 †	+10	3.0	2.2	∞
1012	520	Warburg SG	802	+3	...	3.1	11.7
934½	694½	Wells Fargo	928½	+62½	...	3.9	...
260	123	Westpac	247	-2	...	3.5	∞
390	188	Wintrust	205 †	...	...	2.8	32.6

BREWERIES

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
497	317	Allied-Lyons	428	+2	...	4.2	17.5
647	441	Bass	528	+2	...	4.2	14.1
359	159	Bodrington	288 †	-1	...	3.8	14.3
499	362	Brimer (JP)	450	...	...	2.9	18.1
169	120	Burnwd Rsv	171	...	4.7	3.5	14.3
181	75	Eldridge P 'A'a	160	...	...	3.5	22.2
1100	578	Fuller Sm 'A'	1000	...	...	4.0	987
493	338	Fullr Sm 'A'a	455	-5	7.5	2.8	19.1
506	273	Grand Met	486 †	+4	...	3.3	21.1
511	347	Greenalls Gp	444	+9	...	2.8	15.1
394	305	Guness Pbg	368	-2	...	3.5	14.2
542	388	Guinness	509	+7	...	3.0	19.0
284	230	Hardy Usnon	255	+1	...	4.2	13.6
160	105	Heavitree	160	...	...	3.8	20.5
452	358	Highland Dist	432	-1	...	4.2	19.2
2225	2530	Holt	2150	...	42.0	1.7	30.5
133	118	Macallan-Glen	146	...	4.3	3.0	23.8
465	365	Maclin Marst 'A'	445	...	...	2.3	21.2
266	184	Marstons	240	...	...	3.5	14.5
422	211	Mission Group	280	...	...	2.5	10.8
895	249½	Matthew Clark	565 †	...	...	4.0	32.5
300	125	Morgnwn W	157	...	7.0	3.8	13.5
581	465	Morland	200	...	...	2.4	17.2
1½	4½	Pentamatic	6½	...	...	1.9	17.5
267	145	Regent Inns	230 †	+1	...	3.0	25.4
1525½	1293½	SA Breweries	1350½	+28½	...	3.0	22.4
571	381	Scot & Newc	545	+7	...	2.6	18.7
225	148	Thomas Tomp	192	-1	6.2	3.1	11.9
205	123	Vaux Group	186½	...	...	4.1	18.4
408½	216	Wetherspoon (J)	357	...	...	3.0	23.8
617	435	Whitbread	553	+2	...	4.1	19.3
653	483	Wolvrhmptn O	508	...	...	3.1	14.3
528	425	Young 'A'	528	+2	14.7	3.5	21.8

BUILDING, ROADS

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
205	73	Abbey	185	...	...	1.4	20.4
22	13	Albrighton A	34	...	...	0.8	...
200	87	Allen	192	...	...	2.5	43.5
464	66	Amec	155	...	3.0	2.4	34.7
454	150	Ashtead	424 †	...	...	3.4	28.3
163	101	Assocdpt	132	-12	...	4.3	...
363	180	BPB Ind	346	+8	...	2.8	40.7
127	57	Baggeridge Brk	108	...	...	3.5	52.5
18	15	Bailey (Ben) Con	37½	...	0.6	3.0	...
104	68	Barcom	33	-1	...	4.3	9.6
68	37½	Barlow	55	...	3.0	4.7	26.1
202	94	Barratt Devs	265	+2	...	3.0	27.4
304	152½	Bellway	263	+1	...	3.9	24.7
59	15	Bellwinch	30	...	...	...	...
243	94	Berkshrd Ind	254 †	+2	...	...	...
373	285½	Berkeley Gp	330	+1	...	1.5	28.6
163	45	Bett Bros	163	+2	...	1.5	21.0
89	76	Blackfrs	74	...	1.0	1.7	...
391	189	Blue Circle	359	+4	1.0	3.0	...
265	232	Boot (Henry)	231	...	6.0	2.3	14.3
117	78	Brockton PLC	102	...	4.0	0.8	25.1
154	30	Br Dredging	143	+1	3.2	4.3	31.7
90	45	Brk Pulmpr	63	...	1.7	3.5	...
197½	99	Bryant	173 †	-3	...	3.5	26.6
146	53	CALA	143	...	...	3.0	...
409	200	CRH	408	+4	...	3.5	∞
30	10	Calebrand Hdg	23	...	...	...	...
42	23	Cassidy	35½	+½	...	...	10.6
185	86½	Countryside	175 †	...	...	3.5	28.9
120	39½	Crst Nicholson	110 †	-1	...	1.1	...
140	21	Cruden	120	...	3.0	3.0	∞
25½	15	Edmond Hdgs	24	+2½	0.3	1.0	...
347	178	Epwin	340	+2	...	3.5	22.1
83	33	Erith	70	...	0.3	0.8	...
506	252	Eve Group a	463 †	...	...	3.5	71.5
245	97	Freeman Gpa	232 †	...	...	4.0	3.5	∞
68	76	Galliford	33 †	...	...	...	2.4	...
108	30	Gibbs & Dandy	103 †	...	...	3.2	3.1	∞
1028	695	Gleeson (M)	1015	...	...	3.9	17.6
175½	75	Hewden-Stuart	155	...	...	2.2	33.3
33	33	Hewetson	51 †	...	...	3.1	27.7
473	173	Heywd Wdn	457	+7	15.0	4.0	∞
145	22	Higgs & Hill	130	-1	3.5	3.5	...
36	26	How Gp	29	...	...	4.3	...
30	15	Howard Hldgs	28	...	0.3	3.5	...
161	55	Hstock Johnsn	88	-1	1.0	1.4	...
428	125½	Jarvis	26	+½	...	...	...
144	101	Jelson	141	+½	1.0	3.5	15.4
145	55	Lin Cylinders	140	...	...	5.4	...
220	100	Lovell (V)	140	...	...	4.3	27.5
405	240	Manders	393 †	-5	10.0	2.5	∞
213½	90	Marley	205	+5	4.3	2.6	60.1
155	61	Marshalls	138 †	...	...	3.6	...
253	122	Marstons (I)	251	...	...	3.5	24.3
330	33	McAlpine (A)	304 †	-1	...	2.7	40.0
87½	30	McCarthy & S	72	...	0.5	0.8	...
589	223	Meyer Int	545	+30	...	3.5	54.6
190½	52	Midwinter (J)	164	-1	4.0	3.0	...
232	51	MSM	232	+1	...	...	...
53	41	Nordica	41	...	...	4.4	19.1
198	106	Newman Tonks	171	+1	...	4.9	32.8
302	197	Pentland	211	-2	...	3.5	∞
33	9	Phoenix Timber	17	...	...	...	...
1800	1233½	Pochin	1800	...	29.0	3.0	25.7
198	61	Prestwng	182	...	3.5	1.9	...
1079	555	RMC Gp	972	+15	...	2.6	38.5
167	75½	Raine Ind	95 †	...	...	2.6	20.0
40	18	Ransome	30	...	...	...	...
640	403	Redland	571	+9	25.0	3.5	39.2
86	64	Relnet	33	...	4.3	6.2	12.7
371	287	Rugby Group	328	...	8.7	3.0	...
68	33	Scffld-Beau	54	...	...	2.3	...
189	68	Sharpe & Fisher	166	...	...	3.0	28.0
248	86½	Sheffield Int	267 †	+6	3.5	3.5	∞
298	82	Sheriff Hldgs	253	...	...	1.9	24.1
130	66	Skinnos	110	...	3.2	3.9	15.0
345	195	Smart (J)	225	...	...	4.2	17.0
6½	1½	Spermin	4½	...	...	...	...
106	100	Tarmac	192	+2	3.5	2.8	...
357	131	Ty Homes	255	...	...	2.9	31.5
182	63	Taylor Woodrw	164	...	...	1.0	66
940	453	Tilbury Dougls	736	...	33.0	0.8	34.0
60	18	Town Ctrya	30 †	...	...	1.4	...
370	188	Travis Perkins	359	+12	8.0	2.8	63.2
29½	5½	Trenchwood	34	...	...	...	...
43	30	Try Group	30	...	...	1.0	3.8	9.3
28	21	Tubular	26	...	0.3	1.5	...
113	41	Vibroplant	99	-2	3.5	3.5	35.6
74	30	Ward Hldgs	48	...	...	...	...
45	30	Waterhouse	45	+2	...	...	...
500	360	Wates Meke	500	...	...	3.0	21.6
229½	90	Westbury	208	...	5.0	8.0	33.6
7	3	Wiggins	8	+½	...	...	...
571	362	Wilson Bowden	544	-3	...	3.0	38.3
259	147	Wilson (C)	225	...	3.9	3.5	22.8
349	204	Wimpey G	230	-8	3.5	3.5	∞
47	15	YRM	28	...	...	...	...

BUSINESS SERVICES

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
740	463	ADT	701	-2	...	...	∞
433	198	Adam & Harvey	420	...	13.0	3.8	7.9
42	32	Air London	30	+4	3.5	6.3	13.3
68	37	African Lakes	61	...	3.0	4.3	...
178	95	Auto Sec	121	...	...	6.3	21.7
163	94	BET Ord	133	...	...	3.1	5.4
145	41	BNB Res	142	...	4.9	3.3	...
518	183	BTP	345	...	9.3	4.2	13.5
185	154	BSM	180	...	...	4.0	∞
285	195	Barbour Index	226 †	...	8.7	4.7	14.2
1½	9½	Black & Edge	1½	...	...	...	...
28	15	Bywood	27	...	0.7	4.3	...
269	184	Brit Data Mgt	200 †	-4	4.8	3.1	14.0
50	11	Brooklands	30	...	1.0	4.3	∞
43	18	Bryhn Service	39	...	...	0.9	...
120	76	CKT Gp	110 †	...	...	3.0	33.3
249	139½	Capita Group	212	...	2.8	1.3	∞
39	31	Cedar Plc	34	+½	...	2.1	30.8
55	18½	Chilton Capital	29½	...	...	...	...
95	26	Cofinda	81	...	...	...	...
422	228	Charles Sec	383	-5	...	1.7	23.8
132	90	Cmmc	126	...	...	1.3	32.5
57	6½	Carp Services	50	-1	0.2	0.6	∞
97	26	Crofts Cnstg	94	...	...	...	...
179	30	Dash	146	+5	3.5	2.8	19.8
226	198	Davis Service	761	-1	...	3.5	19.7
154	31	EW Faxa	143	...	4.4	3.9	16.2
34	11	Gardiner	27½	...	...	3.3	12.3
334	213	Hays	303	...	...	2.3	22.8
280	174	Hoare Robinson	280	...	...	5.0	30.6
70	33	Holmes Protects	30	...	...	...	2.0
389½	127	Hunch Winnerp	285	-12	...	1.7	23.3
1030½	975	ISS R Dkr	2540½	-9½	...	0.8	∞
637	425	Inchcape	547	+5	...	5.2	17.8
1035	680	Johnson Clean	1040	...	27.0	3.5	∞
12	2½	Lep	7	...	...	...	...
376	173	Mitie Gp	334 †	+1	4.0	1.3	25.8
1281½	860½	Manpower	1281½	+29½	...	...	...
79½	40½	Michael Page	75	...	1.5	3.0	32.3
279	106	Pentana	109	...	8.0	9.2	4.1
5½	2	Prime People a	4½	...	...	...	...
142	57	Prestbury	68	...	...	22.6	3.5
423	357	RCO	403 †	...	15.2	4.7	13.5
118	33	REA	106	...	3.0	3.5	...
127	43	Reed Executive	124	...	...	...	...
158	100	Relgate SECA	126	-1	4.5	4.3	33.8
279	170	Remotest	256	+2	2.8	1.2	31.8
368	220	Ralph & Nolan	328	...	...	2.8	22.5
398	267	Salesgen Gp	230	+2	...	3.3	17.0
55	76	Scott Hldgs a	54	...	0.8	1.9	17.2
17½	5	Select Appts	14	...	...	...	...
1495	845	Serco Gp	1425 †	-5	17.0	1.4	∞
253	81	Sheryd Cmpo	81	-1	...	10.8	2.4
130	90	Staffdhy	114	...	...	3.3	26.1
355	310	Warner Howd	335	...	6.6	2.5	13.5
45	25	Wolpac	30	-1	...	...	...
30½	18	Wills Gp	30 †	...	...	1.8	20.3

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
280	210	Allied Colloids	268	-1	...	2.0	24.7
1084	613	Albrechtsen	1046	-1	...	1.7	30.1
7	1½	Anglo Ind	3½	...	...	...	...
1125½	832½	BASF Dfd	1125½	-21½	...	3.6	...
373	199	BTP	328	+1	...	3.4	26.3
1135½	1101½	Bayer DM50	1135½	+93½	...	2.8	...
148	105	Bibby Ord	152	-7	6.5	3.2	16.8
165	93	Brent Chem	107	...	...	4.8	∞
530	340	Br Bio-Tech	443	+3	...	...	...
29	5	Caird Gp	10½	...	...	...	20.2
199	126	Canning (W)	166	...	7.2	5.5	19.0
472	388	Cassah Plastics	455	...	...	...	...
606	421	Chemvironmental	559	...	...	3.2	14.0
304	228	Croda	281	-1	...	3.0	21.9
149	103	Dorflex	129	+1	4.6	4.5	8.8
382	175	Elite & Everard	349 †	+1	...	3.6	20.9
42½	19½	Euro Colour	39	...	0.8	2.0	18.7
251	200	Halstead (J)	246	...	...	3.5	16.6
241	150	Hickson	202	...	...	5.0	18.7
1128½	880	Hoechst	1128½	+56½	...	2.8	...
239	157	Holliday Chem	210 †	...	4.0	3.5	∞
835	608	ICI	779 †	+9	...	4.6	58.5
845	536	Laporte	807	+8	...	3.3	19.9
248	181	Leigh	219	...	...	4.5	19.3
97½	35	MTM	63	...	...	...	...
2400	1462½	Nortk Hydro	2387½	-8½	...	1.4	∞
488	370	Paterson Zoch	384	-3	...	3.2	13.3
398	302	de 'W'	354	...	...	2.9	14.5
206	197	Plysu	203	...	...	3.0	20.7
315	178	Porvair	313 †	+5	4.2	1.7	∞

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
76	55	Smithfld Speak	63	...	...	...	...
490	412	Wardle Storeys	475	+2	...	4.3	22.0
650	395	Watchhse R	650	...	17.0	3.5	22.3
480	220	Yorks Chem	445 †	+7	...	3.2	22.1
312	233	Yule Catto	296	...	...	2.6	72.8
860	593	Zeneca	746 †	+7	...	4.0	16.4

DRAPERY, STORES

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
102	53	Alexon	66	-3	...	5.7	...
248	173	Allders	237	+1	...	3.2	17.7
455	257	Argos Plc	300	+4	...	2.5	20.7
26	8	Ashley Group	9	...	...	3.0	...
118	69	Ashley (Laura)	87	+1	0.1	0.1	...
357	278	Asprey	335	...	3.2	3.0	23.6
199	94	Austin Reed	133	...	...	1.7	...
168	126	Bastle (I) 'A'	158	-2	...	4.0	15.7
243	154	Ben Sheridan a	212 †	...	0.3	5.5	∞
87	47	Menakin	78	...	...	...	...
22½	7½	Nat Home Lsgn	18½	+½	...	...	0.4
53	40	Newmarket	50	+1	...	...	...
205	146	Parkhouse Rsc	194	-1	6.5	3.5	19.7
20½	17	Rutland Tst	27½	+½	...	3.6	16.3
400	253	S & U	350	...	10.3	3.4	13.0
118	48	Singer & Frdl	100	...	...	2.8	12.6
1230	713	Sotheby's	1230 †	+67	...	1.2	...
148	113	SIP Capital	135	-1	3.0	2.4	63.0
224	188	Towry Law	221 †	...	...	2.6	21.7

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
2559½	1487½	Amer Express	1943½	+31½	...	...	...
229	146	Gartmore	144	+2	...	2.6	∞
1308	835	Henderson Ad	1040	...	...	3.0	34.0
281½	92	Invesco	207	+1	...	3.5	...
317	164	Jardine Strat	269½	-1½	...	3.8	11.3
223	154	MAI	201	+2	...	2.8	16.3
770	349	MAM	p68	...	16.0	3.1	16.2
1243	633	M & G	1044	+1	...	3.0	21.9
496	109	Smith New Ct	415	+3	...	3.1	4.1
81	45	Title Hldgs	53 †	-1	2.8	5.9	∞

FOODS

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
582	456	AB Food	559	...	...	3.5	11.0
77½	46½	ASDA Group	69½	+1	1.6	3.4	...
368	170	Associ B Bitish	343 †	...	...	3.9	12.6
55	35	Albert Fisher	43	+2	...	7.4	14.0
407	325	Argyll	354	...	...	4.2	15.8
220	160	Booker (S C)	260 †	...	9.0	4.2	9.9
402	305	Bery (AG)	330 †	...	8.3	2.8	∞
83	54	Bernard Cayzer	70 †	...	2.8	5.1	∞
481	357	Booker	419	+3	...	2.8	15.3
56½	35	Bartlwick	55½	...	...	2.1	68.9
505	430	Brake Bros	494	-1	6.3	1.0	20.1
51	37	Budgen	50 †	...	...	4.2	11.3
545	407	Cadbury Schpp	484	+14	...	3.0	18.2
222	78	Cern Milling	204	...	...	2.6	14.8
133	133	Cranswick	145	...	...	4.8	13.7
30	6½	Cullens	15	...	0.8	4.2	43.1
394	115	Dalgety	116 †	+1	...	2.8	16.4
543	454	Dalgety	465	-5	...	5.4	13.4
97	72	Daniels B	81	...	...	0.4	...
294	191	Devro	259	...	...	2.7	24.5
124	68	Dorsett	68	...	...	6.9	13.7
392	269	Fergusn	392	...	3.9	1.0	24.1
10	3	Ferrmgtrd	8	...	...	...	...
94	64	Finlay Garnet	84	...	...	4.2	21.8
128	72	Fyffes	100 †	...	...	1.8	17.5
485	256	Geest	468	...	...	2.8	20.6
20½	7	Globale	19	...	0.8	2.8	29.6
63	43	Grand Central	51	...	0.8	3.0	...
208	138	Hazlewood Fods	155	-½	...	2.8	8.7
196½	145	Hillsdown	145	...	...	4.8	12.2
250	146	Iceland Group	160	+1	...	3.5	15.1
131	93	JJ Group	110	...	...	2.8	12.2
853	543	Kwik Save	612	+5	...	3.7	11.0
202	141	Lyons (Jos)	157	...	...	4.3	15.1
113	54	Matthews (G)	104	...	2.8	3.5	66.1
169½	117½	Morrison Rstrnt	159½	-½	4.0	2.5	17.1
287	199	Normond Ind	289 ↓	...	6.0	1.7	∞
19½	11	Northern Retail	19½	-½	0.8	7.7	31.7
174	84	Morrison (W)	117	...	0.9	15.2	∞
248	177	Nichols (JN)	243	...	5.5	2.9	17.6
201	207½	Nthn Foods	218	-2	...	4.0	10.3
20½	8	Nthmbrlnd Fds	12	...	...	...	...
253	173	Nurdin Peack	228	-1	...	3.4	12.6
360	205	Park Foods	354	-4	...	2.8	21.4
115	35	Pickles Retail	74	...	...	2.2	16.5
141	47	Pizzahypermkt	126 †	-1	...	0.8	26.6
9	1½	Regina Hldgs	3½	...	...	...	...
584	343	Sainsbury J	486	+8½	...	2.3	12.5
76	30	Sentry Farms	81	...	1.5	3.2	14.5
225	92	Smiths Food	166	...	...	4.8	12.1
467½	385½	Tate & Lyle	430	+3	...	2.8	11.5
223	176	Tesco	223	-1	...	4.1	10.1
223	122	Thorntons	192 †	-2	...	2.5	...
238	181	Tomkins	227 †	...	...	3.3	12.5
434½	300	Unigate	348	-3	...	5.0	11.4
437	324	Utd Biscuits	333	+1	...	3.5	20.6
24½	18½	Unbscne	19	...	...	3.5	14.0
403	248	Watson & Phil	402	...	...	4.5	16.7
59	30½	West Trust	43 †	...	...	8.0	...

HOTELS, CATERERS

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
26	15	Alnrtn Stt Hs	24	...	...	...	...
94	77	City Centre Rest	86½	...	1.5	2.8	21.3
285	170	Forte	255	+2	...	3.5	20.0
215	148	Friendly Hotels	184	...	...	3.9	18.8
11½	5	Harmony Prop a	9½	...	...	...	...
169½	87	Jarys Hotel	157	...	...	4.2	12.2
222½	142	Ladbroke	207 †	-1	...	3.6	30.4
109½	58	Mecklnrtn Grnd	96½	-1	...	3.5	24.0
55	28	Rstnd Hotels	43 †	...	3.4	0.6	8.8
31	11½	Ryan Hldgs R	31	...	...	2.8	∞
109½	203	Savoy Hotel 'A'	N88	+5	2.0	0.8	...
92½	34½	Stakis	88 †	...	1.0	1.4	∞

INDUSTRIALS

1993/94 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
218	19	AAF Indy	20	+2	...	19.0	3.5
634	455	AAH	489 †	-4	...	4.5	16.3
185	123	ATM	145 †	...	...	5.5	20.6
138	45	AFV	131	...	...	3.2	...
238	81	AFW	192 †	+2	...	3.9	∞
202	118	AWest	186	+2	...	4.2	17.9
20	10	Aerospace Dfd	18½	...	...	3.0	...
323	269	Airtemp	285	...	8.8	3.0	18.2
217	112	Alexndr Sr	220	...	4.1	2.4	33.3
13½	6½	Allied Radio	11	...	...	...	...
330	207½	Alumasc	330 †	+4	...	2.3	18.4
71	17	Avis	71 †	+½	...	1.8	17.8

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	+/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
51 Belmont Rd. Uxbridge. Middx UB8 1RZ				
0895 259 783				
Ground Amer	168.00	176.80	+ 0.90	...
Grofund Equity	243.40	257.80	+ 1.90	1.48
Grofund Euro	300.90	314.70	+ 1.70	...
Grofund Expt Rel	117.00	131.80	- 1.80	1.03
Grofund Gilt	78.61	81.04	- 0.04	4.26
Grofund Japan	187.10	196.90	- 0.60	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
Equity & Law Hse, Corpn St, Coventry				
0203 553 234				
General Acc	537.00	571.30F	+ 3.40	2.20
General Inc	479.90	510.60F	+ 3.10	2.30
UK Growth Acc	383.70	387.00	+ 2.30	2.38
UK Growth Inc	254.60	270.90	+ 1.50	2.38
Higher Inc Acc	670.50	713.40	+ 4.60	3.30
Higher Inc Inc	401.00	426.70	+ 2.70	3.30
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	188.60	199.20F	+ 0.20	5.81
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	94.23	99.51F	+ 0.06	5.81
Nth America	260.00	276.70	+ 1.40	...
Far East	362.80	384.00	- 0.20	...
Europe	276.30	294.30F	+ 0.40	0.55
Brit Excell	72.20	76.81	+ 0.39	2.50
Brit Fndmtls Acc	101.30	107.80F	+ 0.80	4.16
Brit Fndmtls Inc	75.92	80.77F	+ 0.30	4.16
Global Opps	86.57	92.10	+ 0.27	...
Balanced Acc	54.80	58.30F	+ 0.26	2.30
Balanced Inc	54.31	57.78F	+ 0.26	2.30
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
80 Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth 0845 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	134.00	142.80F	+ 0.32	3.60
High Inc Equity	172.90	183.90	+ 1.30	3.96
Worldwide Bond	272.80	289.20F	+ 0.70	3.63
Capital Growth				
American Growth	309.00	330.50	- 1.70	.35
Asian Pacific	349.90	374.20	- 1.10	...
Assets & Earnings	278.90	296.70	+ 1.00	1.60
Comdty & Energy	130.20	139.00F	+ 1.20	.40
1992 Enterprise	98.38	105.10	+ 0.40	1.50
Euro Capital Inc	133.20	142.50	- 1.60	.68
General	205.70	220.80F	+ 2.50	2.17
Japan	133.20	142.00	+ 0.30	...
Mastertrust	147.80	158.10	+ 0.80	.83
UK Growth Dist	148.30	157.00	+ 0.10	1.53
US Emerging Cos	145.60	155.80	+ 0.40	...
Income & Growth	401.90	427.50	+ 3.40	3.07
Ethical	76.57	81.46	+ 0.23	1.98
International	119.80	127.40	+ 0.50	.09
Dividend & Growth	63.76	67.83	+ 0.40	2.74
Global Gwth & Sec	64.97	69.19	+ 0.03	1.90
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
14 Melville St, Edinburgh EH3 7NS				
031 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1829.0	1903.0	...	...
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ				
0800 831 959				
Aberdeen Portfolio	63.43	64.60	+ 0.11	0.70
Amer Inc & Growth	45.00	48.51	+ 0.20	0.64
Cash	50.08	50.08F	+ 0.01	4.49
European	109.40	116.00F	+ 0.40	...
European Income	102.30	108.60F	+ 0.50	1.31
Exempt	108.7	113.7	+ 3.80	3.33
Extra Income	54.53	59.49F	+ 0.10	4.38
Far East Emg Ecn	113.90	123.00	- 0.10	0.51
Fixed Interest	25.87	23.61F	...	...
Fund Inv Tst	185.80	197.00	+ 0.50	0.85
Japan	203.50	216.70	- 1.20	...
Latin American	77.60	82.57	- 0.49	0.58
Pacific	73.28	78.46	- 0.06	0.34
Property Share	74.90	79.94	+ 0.13	1.63
UK Emerging Cos	70.64	75.41	- 0.04	1.64
UK Growth	46.21	49.82	+ 0.26	2.35
World Growth	77.43	82.64	+ 0.16	0.65
Ethical	65.89	70.34	+ 0.23	2.49
Aberdeen Gilt Inc	52.88	52.88F	+ 0.03	7.70
ACUMA FUND MANAGERS LTD				
5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Essex 0277 680 386				
UK Equity Income	97.14	103.34F	+ 0.66	2.82
UK Equity Growth	47.83	93.44F	+ 0.31	2.01
European	69.50	73.94	+ 0.50	0.61
Nth American	68.21	72.56	+ 0.51	0.00
Far Eastern	75.91	80.75	+ 0.15	0.31
Money	65.53	69.71	+ 0.01	3.77
Fixed Interest	72.35	76.97F	+ 0.06	6.31
Index Linked Gilt	66.85	71.12F	+ 0.15	1.14
AEGON UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF				
031 549 3232				
British Growth	73.12	76.74	- 0.12	2.35
British Income	80.90	86.07	- 0.31	3.18
Select Portfolio	80.22	94.92	- 0.43	...
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
101 King's Road Brentwood CM14 4DR				
0452 305 988				
Amity Income	79.01	83.83	+ 0.36	1.95
Income Builder Inc	70.37	74.86	+ 0.31	2.72
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TSTS PLC				
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL				
HFA dlg: 0793 694 326 Client dlg: 0793 594 554				
Balanced Trusts				
Growth & Income	247.60	264.60	+ 2.30	2.85
Capital	443.90	474.00	+ 4.00	1.48
Balanced	725.70	775.70	+ 6.90	2.34
Accumulator	1298.0	1376.0	+12.00	2.66
Income Trusts				
American Income	49.09	52.47	- 0.05	3.26
High Income	428.80	458.30F	+ 4.80	3.28
Equity Income	242.10	258.80F	+ 2.50	3.38
High Yield	266.60	284.90	+ 3.10	3.30
Govt Securities	34.83	36.75	+ 0.20	4.41
International Trusts				
Amer Spec Sits	138.80	148.30F	+ 0.90	0.32
European Growth	35.20	37.46	+ 0.11	0.43
International	169.30	180.20	+ 0.20	0.22
Japan	230.60	245.90F	+ 0.90	0.01
Pacific	403.30	431.10	...	0.17
Secs of America	437.40	465.30F	+ 3.30	0.51
Wwide Asset Val	50.13	53.54	+ 0.12	0.02
Specialist Trusts				
Asset Value	549.50	587.40	+ 7.10	2.13
Comm & Gilt	49.16	52.55F	+ 0.15	3.84
Smaller Cos	187.80	200.70F	+ 0.39	0.50
2nd Smaller Cos	179.50	191.80F	+ 0.39	0.93
Recovery	152.40	162.90	+ 1.40	1.71
Met Min & Qdty	161.30	172.40	+ 0.80	0.78
Cross Sectnls	272.50	291.30	+ 3.50	1.76
Technology	164.30	175.60	+ 1.40	0.01
UK Special Sits	477.50	510.40F	+ 3.90	1.88
B & C E UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
Manor Royal, Crawley RH10 2QP 0293 526 911				
Central Gov Fixed	109.30	107.30	...	1.45
Foundtn Persl Pens	65.94	68.50	...	4.00
B&I-THORNHILL UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
23 St Jude's Sq, London EC1M 4AE				
071 251 6767				
Capital	73.40	78.69	- 0.32	2.58
International	64.44	68.55	...	0.49
BAILLIE GIFFORD & CO LTD				
1 Rutland Court, Edinburgh EH3 8EY				
031 222 4242				
America	318.30	343.80	+ 0.70	...
Bond	131.00	127.30	+ 0.10	6.14
Brit Smlr Cos	106.60	113.40	...	0.90
Conv & Gen	87.12	71.83F	+ 0.13	4.86
Energy	442.30	481.00	+ 3.00	0.22
Europe	238.90	253.90	+ 1.30	0.40
Euro Smlr Cos	106.00	112.60	+ 0.30	0.85
Income Gwth	366.30	390.90F	+ 0.50	3.40
Japan	344.60	366.50	- 1.10	...
Pacific	112.00	119.10	- 0.10	0.67
UK Smlr Cos	54.00	57.40	- 0.20	0.70
Japan Fd	790.40	822.70	+ 2.70	...
Mngd Fd	179.50	190.90	+ 0.60	2.63
BANK OF IRELAND FUND MGRS LTD				
36 Queen St, London EC4R 1BN 071 489 9673				
Brit & Overs	296.80	312.40	+ 4.80	1.17
Capital Gwth	118.50	124.70	+ 1.70	2.14
Wwide Opps	189.30	190.30	- 1.20	0.45
BARCLAYS UNICORN LTD				
11 Broadway, Stratford E15 4BJ 081 534 5544				
Balanced Trusts				
Bal Im Fd Inc	359.40	374.30	+ 2.20	2.25
European Bd Inc	96.46	99.88	+ 0.04	7.22
Exempt	77.92	83.26	+ 0.73	3.92
Financial	75.78	81.05	+ 0.33	2.01
500.00	485.00	518.70F	+ 1.50	1.97
General	231.80	701.49	+ 2.90	2.17
Property	249.70	267.00	...	5.46
Trustee	191.60	204.90	+ 1.50	1.82
Income Trusts				
Cash Inc	100.70	100.70	...	4.35
Extra Income	123.10	131.60	+ 0.80	3.75
Gilt & Fxd Int	59.90	65.50F	+ 0.03	7.95
Income	555.10	593.70	+ 4.00	3.67
Income Builder	66.87	71.13F	+ 0.28	4.43
Intl Income	68.87	73.26	+ 0.23	2.89
Growth Trusts • UK				
Capital	119.60	126.90F	+ 1.20	2.13
Leisure	126.80	135.70	+ 0.32	0.78
Recovery	436.70	467.10	+ 2.90	2.01
Smlr Cos Inc	45.94	49.27	+ 0.07	1.70
Special Sits	296.70	317.30	+ 1.40	1.41
Growth Trusts - Overseas				
America	135.80	144.10	+ 0.80	0.14
Asst Acc	273.40	290.80	+ 1.60	1.54
Asst Inc	171.10	182.00	+ 1.00	1.54
Euro Gwth Inc	148.30	157.10	+ 0.32	0.35
Japan & Gen Inc	194.40	208.80F	+ 0.70	...
Japan Spec Sits	86.05	91.16	+ 0.19	0.00
Uni Tech Inc	80.26	85.27	+ 0.15	0.38
Worldwide	181.20	192.40	+ 0.20	0.26
BARING FUND MANAGERS LTD				
PO Box 158, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ				
081 658 6000				
American Growth	103.90	110.10	+ 0.70	...
Amer Smlr Cos	138.90	148.50	+ 0.00	...
Cash Trust	50.68	50.68	+ 0.04	4.90
Convertibles	63.31	67.71	+ 0.34	5.60
Eastern	285.20	306.20	- 1.00	1.60
Equity Income	92.80	98.81	- 0.23	4.90
European Growth	299.90	318.80	+ 0.80	1.40
Europe	216.70	231.40	+ 0.40	1.00
German Growth	71.75	76.38	+ 0.32	0.70
Global Bond	67.26	71.60	+ 0.13	5.30
Global Growth	133.40	142.00	+ 0.30	...
Japan Growth	229.60	241.00	- 0.90	...
Japan Sunrise	192.70	204.10	- 0.32	...
Korea Trust	79.75	88.02	+ 0.32	...
Portfolio	137.60	147.00F	+ 0.90	3.00
UK Growth	96.71	102.60	+ 0.30	2.60
UK Smaller Cos	101.30	108.30	+ 0.40	1.80
Select Managers	77.22	82.85	+ 0.35	2.00
BLACKSTONE FRANKS UT MGRS LTD				
20-24 Old Street, London EC1V 9HL				
071 250 3000				
Intl Gwth Port Inc	82.51	88.10	+ 1.05	...
Special Oppor Inc	56.66	60.29	+ 0.38	...
BREWIN DOLPHIN UT MGRS LTD				
5 Gilpin St, London EC1A 7DE 071 236 6461				
Special Sits	186.70	199.70	+ 1.80	0.47
Dividend	83.67	89.49F	+ 1.55	3.81
Int Gilt & Inc	226.60	242.40	+ 3.10	2.49
UK & Gen	46.19	49.40F	+ 0.27	1.51
Fund of Funds	68.31	73.06	+ 0.39	...
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MGRS LTD				
50 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6HR				
041 223 4020				
Balanced Growth	111.69	118.19	+ 0.76	1.27
Smaller Cos	109.82	116.21	+ 0.24	0.07
Higher Yield	46.83	49.56	+ 0.19	2.42
American Gth Inc	78.70	83.35F	+ 1.49	...
European Growth	138.13	146.17F	+ 0.27	...
Global Bond Inc	29.91	31.65	+ 0.03	5.90
Mngd Pfolio Inc	45.36	48.00F	+ 0.12	0.94
BURRAGE UNIT TST MGMT LTD				
177 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL				
071 480 7216				
Short Dated Gilt	65.83	66.73F	+ 0.07	5.96
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
PO Box 103, Manchester M60 0AH				
061 837 5040				
Environ	158.70	168.90	+ 0.30	1.35
Tilt Growth	170.20	181.10F	+ 1.40	1.80
UK Income	139.70	148.70	+ 0.80	3.81
CANADA LIFE UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
High St, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA				
0707 651 122				
Can Gen Dist	190.80	202.30	+ 0.60	1.79
-do- Income Dist	113.60	120.40	+ 0.30	4.44
Gilt & Fxd Int	42.39	44.93F	+ 0.06	6.05
For Cannon see Lincoln National				
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UT MGMT LTD				
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF				
061 236 5685 Eng: 061 236 5685 Dlg: 061 236 5362				
American & Gen	121.80	161.50	+ 1.50	...
European Inc	81.06	85.88	+ 0.39	0.34
Smaller Cos (4-1)	86.22	91.75F	+ 0.11	1.13
Growth	439.20	469.90F	+ 1.60	1.90
Income & Growth	419.40	446.30F	- 0.10	3.46
Japan & Gen	78.37	83.38F	- 0.02	...
Master Portfolio	111.57	114.14	+188.00	1.31
Special Sits	100.40	106.90	- 0.70	1.92
High Yield	1369.0	1412.0	- 8.00	3.92
CAPITAL HOUSE UNIT TST MGRS				
Capital House, Festival Square, Edinburgh				
031 228 4477 Dealing: 0800 835 564				
American Gwth Tst	57.01	60.54	+ 0.21	0.30
Cash Income	50.61	50.61	...	4.94
European Gwth	40.24	42.01	+ 0.20	0.35
Income & Gwth Inc	29.40	31.44	+ 0.05	3.94
Intnl Gwth	52.59	54.53	+ 0.04	0.53
Japan Gwth	28.75	30.74	- 0.06	...
Managed Tst Inc	50.23	53.72	- 0.02	1.49
Oriental Opps Inc	144.50	154.50	- 0.80	...
Property Shares	46.75	50.00	- 0.08	1.63
Smaller Cos	23.30	35.50	- 0.01	1.49
UK Growth Tst	26.70	28.62	+ 0.12	2.63
Royal Scottish Assurance				
Cap Hse Global Inc	73.63	78.74F	- 0.39	1.63
Cap Hse UK Inc	68.53	73.29	+ 0.42	2.33
Exempt	23.99	24.26	...	...
Formerly Brown Shipley				
European Inc	26.28	28.10	+ 0.18	0.38
European Acc	27.26	29.15	+ 0.19	0.38
Financial	152.40	162.50F	+ 1.60	1.71
Foundation	95.37	102.00	+ 0.50	2.16
German	50.88	54.41	+ 0.16	0.07
High Income	77.63	83.02F	+ 0.16	5.30
Income	138.30	147.90	+ 0.90	3.38
Intl Growth	39.19	41.91	+ 0.25	0.15
Mngd Pfolio Inc	108.00	118.50	- 2.10	1.60
Mngd Pfolio Acc	208.40	220.70	- 4.00	1.60
Monthly Income	87.11	93.83	+ 0.41	3.10
North American	107.30	114.90	+ 0.50	...
Orient	150.90	161.40	+ 0.20	...
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
3 Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7BH				
071 606 9788				
Cazenove Portfolio	83.47	89.16	+ 0.49	2.18
American Portfolio	90.75	96.72	+ 0.20	1.01
European Portfolio	98.31	104.88	+ 0.51	0.93
Japanese Portfolio	73.74	78.38	- 0.05	...
Pacific Portfolio	143.95	154.70	- 0.62	0.70
UK Inc & Growth	76.41	81.80	+ 0.46	3.65
Utility & Bond	56.67	57.37	+ 0.36	6.31
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
5 Old Bailey, London EC4M 7BA 071 332 5000				
UT General Tst	65.85	70.05	+ 0.44	2.86
Global Tst	...	...	...	...
Recovery Tst	...	...	...	...
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
151 Farringdon Rd, London EC1R 3AD				
071 837 7667				
Intl Growth	147.83	159.89	...	...
UK Growth	113.11	122.13	...	...
UK Income	116.74	126.62	...	3.71
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1				
071 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	86.86	91.75	...	1.82
Beck Ble-Tech	37.31	39.69	...	...
Acorn Ethical Tst	161.27	169.86	...	1.19
City Fin Assets	75.85	79.84	...	1.58
City Fin America	83.21	89.02	...	...
City Fin Intl	79.59	83.75	...	0.47
City Fin Japan	178.69	188.09	...	...
Prince Lion Cap	204.34	300.09	...	2.22
Prince Hse Inc	207.06	223.90	...	4.77
Buckley Wrld Gwth	141.26	150.28F	...	0.67
Fairmont Cap Gth	147.55	155.32	...	...
-do- Inc & Gth	116.91	125.46	...	1.38
Fairmount Intl	163.94	172.57	...	...
City Fin Pfdlo Inc	59.74	63.55	...	2.61
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
10 Eastcheap, London EC3M 1AJ 0392 412 144				
Emerging Markets	57.27	60.77	+ 0.28	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0800 373 393				
American Gwth	60.33	64.52	+ 0.20	...
Attic Mngd Gwth	38.65	41.56	+ 0.07	...
Dragon Growth	71.60	75.94	+ 0.03	0.44
Equity High Inc	85.10	90.57F	+ 0.39	3.42
European Gwth	50.86	54.11	+ 0.22	0.75
Everyman	31.34	34.02	+ 0.17	...
General Equity	87.12	92.43	+ 0.18	2.08
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc	26.34	23.69	+ 0.10	7.54
Japan Growth	53.70	58.06	- 0.01	...
Pedigree Gwth	32.43	35.77	+ 0.03	2.07
Ped Sm Cos Inc	34.27	36.46	+ 0.06	0.59
Retirement Inc	36.83	38.88	+ 0.06	5.06
Special Sits	40.37	43.18	- 0.09	1.48
UK & Overseas	50.40	53.62	+ 0.19	0.06
COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGMT LTD				
Chelmsfd Marlhse, Essex 0245 493 477				
0634 898 000				
Capital	66.06	70.69	+ 0.80	2.75
Income	61.58	65.89F	+ 0.33	3.78
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT INTERNATIONAL LTD				
Exchange Court, 3 Botleird Park, Croydon CR0 2AQ 081 686 9898				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	171.53	182.48	+ 2.06	4.85
Fixed & Convertible	45.07	47.95	+ 0.01	5.32
Monthly Inc Pfol	52.75	56.12	+ 0.05	7.98
Preference Share	50.52	53.74	+ 0.04	6.88
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	137.79	146.59	+ 0.58	6.50
Managed Fund	69.99	74.46	+ 0.14	2.71
UK Growth Fundr				
Smaller Cos	44.93	47.80	+ 0.07	1.77
UK & General	80.60	85.74	+ 0.32	2.53
UK Growth	140.43	149.39	+ 0.50	1.00
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	193.77	206.14	+ 0.84	...
Far Eastern Gth	138.73	147.59	+ 0.10	0.78
Global Bond	85.45	90.81	+ 0.13	5.86
Japan Growth	131.12	139.52	- 0.31	...
North Amer Gwth	163.15	172.50	+ 1.22	...
Oriental Growth	81.36	86.55	...	...
Worldwide Growth	67.11	71.41	+ 0.02	0.23
OTHER CO TRUSTS (NON PPT FUNDS)				
Deposit Fund	93.03	93.03	...	4.49
Remembrancer Fund	78.47	83.48	+ 0.05	1.83
Quilter Fund	137.78	146.57F	+ 0.70	2.03
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Japan	38.58	41.04	- 0.10	...
Smaller Cos Inc	33.82	35.97	+ 0.04	2.30
Smaller Cos	35.19	37.43	+ 0.04	2.30
North American	32.97	35.07	+ 0.04	0.00
European	57.95	40.57	+ 0.05	0.40
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Consistent UT	32.04	34.37F	...	4.31
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Growth	152.00	161.80	...	1.57
Income	76.01	80.87F	+ 0.16	4.23
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Recovery	147.20	157.20	+ 0.40	1.21
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Equity Dist	844.60	899.40	...	3.59
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5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex				
0277 640 370				
Fellowship Tst	74.19	78.93	+0.349	1.80
Income	246.00	261.20	+ 1.40	4.30
Smaller Cos	159.30	169.50	- 0.32	1.30
Inv Portfolio	80.08	85.20F	- 0.60	1.40
High Income Port	69.34	73.77	- 0.37	4.50
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071 638 0177				
Euro Small Cos	1539.7	1574.2	...	...
Japan Small Cos	1287.1	1313.3	...	...
UK Small Cos	1890.9	1978.6	...	...
US Small Cos	1679.4	1725.7	...	...
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European Gwth	268.50	283.80	+ 1.40	1.06
New Asia	220.10	238.40	+ 0.10	0.22
Japan Growth	134.30	143.00	- 0.10	...
Jap Smlr Co	354.50	388.80	- 0.90	...
Nth Amer	254.70	270.00	+ 2.00	0.90
Shifrd Asia Pac Mt	134.00	131.70	+ 0.10	0.47
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UK Balanced Inc	144.90	154.30	+ 1.40	1.34
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UK Fxd & Fl Inc	61.22	64.94	+ 0.04	4.83
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American	124.00	131.80	- 0.60	0.15
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Equity Income	135.50	144.00	+ 0.80	3.47
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Financial	50.33	53.48	+ 0.21	1.30
Growth & Inc	241.60	256.70F	+ 1.00	2.92
High Dlr	167.70	178.20	+ 0.40	4.21
International	397.70	422.60	+ 1.40	0.28
Int Can Inc	98.32	105.00	+ 0.60	2.68
Latin American	49.25	52.33	- 0.32	0.24
Pacific	85.72	91.08	+ 0.15	...
Preference Share	24.90	26.46F	+ 0.02	5.86
Tokyo	243.60	257.80	- 0.40	...
UK Smaller Cos	247.50	263.10	...	0.89
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Elcon Trust	223.60	238.70	...	...
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071 373 7261				
Endurance Fd	205.40	218.90		0.31
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
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0296 434 400				
European	81.36	85.64	- 0.46	1.54
Far Eastern	318.54	335.30	- 0.28	1.38
High Income	138.51	145.80	+ 1.08	4.14
Intl Growth	124.20	130.74F	+ 0.09	1.12
North American	120.59	126.94	+ 0.23	0.05
Pelican	121.70	128.11	- 1.03	2.58
Smaller Cos	70.40	83.11	+ 0.01	1.75
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Tst of Inv Tsts	192.19	202.31F	+ 0.45	1.72
EVERMORE FUND MGMT LTD				
1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge SE1				
071 407 5966				
Smaller Cos Inc	221.40	230.63	...	1.54
Smaller Cos Acc	383.58	399.26	...	1.54
Recovery	59.21	61.68	- 0.31	1.85
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0392 412 144				
Balanced	112.62	119.81	- 0.16	5.10
Capital Growth	83.39	88.43	+ 0.25	...
Fd of Inv Tsts	46.42	49.22	+ 0.07	0.23
High Income	48.67	51.92	+ 0.08	4.83
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Zero Preference	37.06	39.53	+ 0.04	...
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Family Income Tst	51.60	54.27	+ 0.34	5.86
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-do- Europe	24.10	25.44	+ 0.04	4.90
-do- America	23.28	24.52	+ 0.04	0.32
-do- Acc Japan	26.66	28.29	- 0.15	0.50
Bond Funds				
Gilt & Fxd Int	30.05	30.42F	- 0.09	7.32
Intl Bond	30.84	32.17	+ 0.09	5.21
Income Funds				

OPERA page 34
A double dose of Stravinsky in the Monte Carlo Opera's epic new staging

ARTS

DESIGN page 35
By royal command: Dan Cruickshank brings out the first issue of Perspectives

Scenes from a private nightmare

Richard Cork hails a stunning show of Goya's revelatory small paintings at the Royal Academy

At his most commanding, Goya astounds us with his mastery on the grandest scale imaginable. Think of the monumental *Third of May 1808*, where the white-shirted victim thrusts up his arms in a crucified gesture as the phalanx of faceless executioners fire their rifles. Or the unnerving Black Paintings, those wild visions of sorcery and cannibalism which the ageing artist brushed over the walls of the Quinta del Sordo, his house on the outskirts of Madrid. Even *The Naked Maja*, a nude so provocative that it aroused the ire of the Inquisition, was painted on a canvas large enough to emphasise the artist's brazen contempt for propriety.

All the same, Goya was self-critical enough to remain suspicious of grandiose elaboration. In a Memorandum of an address he gave in 1792, when he made the celebrated assertion that "there are no rules in painting", he also asked: "How comes it about that one has perhaps been happier in a less careful work than in one done with greater application?" He was surely thinking of the sketch-like "cabinet paintings" produced throughout his career.

Now gathered together in an enthralling exhibition at the Royal Academy, these zestful little pictures show the artist at his least inhibited. In many of his large pictures, especially the full-length portraits and religious compositions, he was obliged to satisfy the often irksome demands of his clientele. In the small paintings, however, he could give rein to his most authentic concerns. "I work with the same sense of honour," he explained, "without having to deal with my enemies, abasing myself to no one."

Goya is therefore at his most personal in much of the RA survey. But not at the outset. The first room is devoted to early studies for competition pieces and religious commissions. Apart from the frothy oil sketch for a painting of *Hannibal the Conqueror*, they lack the vivacity we expect from Goya. The penetrating youthful self-portrait hanging opposite, with its intense gaze set in blanched, puffy features, seems remote from the dutiful studies for church frescoes. Although Goya worked hard on these subjects, he had little innate feeling for them.

His true interests lay elsewhere, and for a while he learnt how to feed them into his work at the Royal Tapestry Factory in Madrid. For the dining-room of the Prince and Princess of Asturias, be produced a surprisingly belligerent scene of a brawl outside the Cock Inn.

Goya's vigorous brushwork defines the jacket-tearing and hair-pulling with great fire. It has the air of a scene he had witnessed, like so many of his later paintings, and makes the tapestry studies for the Bedchamber of the Infantas look far more artificial.

Constrained, no doubt, by an awareness of the tapestries' destination, Goya is here on his best behaviour. The biggest sketch, a panorama of a festival in the meadow of San' Isidoro, is sprightly yet polite. No unseemly behaviour disrupts the pageant-like proceedings. Armed with our knowledge of the mature Goya, we might expect the young wine-quaffing man to be drunk and aggressive. But all is decorous here, and we have to search for signs of potential disturbance among the other Bedchamber images.

> ‘These zestful little pictures show the artist at his least inhibited’

In *The Cat at Bay*, two men taunt the animal cowering on a tree while a dog slavers as he waits at the base of the trunk. Persecution is countered by an air of rococo playfulness, and the National Gallery's picnic scene is equally ambiguous. At first, it appears lighthearted. Then we realise that the woman is looking askance, while her equally well-dressed male companion sprawls on the grass like a retching drunkard. Perhaps he has been reduced to this state by the man leering in the middle. Seemingly encouraged by conspiratorial friends behind, be edges towards the woman with a lecherous grin.

Only hindsight prompts us to conclude that a rape is about to occur. If Goya had failed to break free from courtly limits in his subsequent work, paintings like the picnic scene would hardly appear so sinister. But the darker side of his imagination could not he beld in check much longer. It even erupts in a religious commission of the same period. Asked to prepare a large painting for Valencia Cathedral, of *St Francis Attending a Dying Impenitent*, Goya becomes audacious. Particles of scarlet blood stream like tracer-bullets from the saint's upheld crucifix to the ailing figure on the bed. His face distorted by a howl, the impenitent finds himself assailed by a gaggle of snarling, winged predators who threaten to gnaw at his flesh.

These repellent monsters proved all too prophetic. Four years later, in 1792, Goya suddenly left Madrid and succumbed to a severe illness. Whether caused by syphilis or a nervous breakdown, he suffered from dizziness, noises in the head and deafness. Maybe he was visited by nightmares as gruesome as the creatures attacking the impenitent, for the astonishing sequence of cabinet pictures painted during his convalescence are haunted by a sense of inescapable doom.

They mark a dramatic watershed in his long career. Unlike the previous oil studies, these prodigious images are complete in themselves and wholly independent of a patron's demands. Goya described them as paintings of "themes that cannot usually be addressed in commissioned works, where *capricho* and invention have little part to play".

Executed on tinplate, they show an artist determined to unleash the full extent of his perturbations. A picador is shown, savagely impaled on a bull's horns. Then, with gruelling authenticity, Goya paints the last surviving traveller in a coach, begging for life as robbers prepare to shoot him. The incident is presented with the directness of a photojournalist. It is as harrowing as the recent photograph of the Afrikaner militant who, surrounded by dead companions, pleaded in vain for mercy.

Flying Witches, 1797-98: for Goya, witches came to embody the malevolence pervading a nation sundered by war

Even so, Goya departs from observed reality in the other tinplate pictures. He cannot have witnessed the shipwreck scene, where passengers struggle ashore while a bedraggled woman lifts her arms to heaven, half deploring and half grateful.

Goya was now preoccupied with the arbitrary cruelty of fate, and gave vent to his anxieties in an apocalyptic image called *Fire at Night*. It is a Dantesque vision of tormented souls, painted with an exquisite subtlety which does nothing to lessen the terror.

As for *Interior of a Prison* and *Yard with Lunatics*, they convey a despair unalleviated by any prospect of succour. The prisoners are listless and devoid of hope, while two of the madmen stare out at us with black, burning and accusatory eyes.

Once he had begun to explore this lacerating new territory, nothing stopped him from going further. Witchcraft became an obsession in the late 1790s. Gathering in a diabolic huddle around babies heaped in baskets, or flying into the night sky with a naked victim screaming in their arms, witches embody the malevolence pervading a nation sundered by war.

Goya himself looks wary and defensive by this time. Painting a consummate self-portrait against the light, so that his face is half obscured by shadow, he turns away from his canvas to give us an embattled stare.

Tiresome commissions would not go away, and the three oil studies for equestrian portraits are little more than polite, standardised effigies of wealthy clients. Goya must have longed to return to his private preoccupations. The staleness of his humdrum study for a portrait of Don Manuel Godoy seems even more lacklustre when set beside the series celebrating Friar Pedro's doughty victory over the notorious bandit "El Maragato".

Working like a strip cartoonist, or a film director planning successive moments in an action sequence, Goya shows the Friar disarming, shooting and capturing his quarry. The images add up to a brilliant exercise in reportage, but their effervescence is left behind in Goya's last years.

Infirm and exiled in France, the elderly artist channelled much of his energy into a group of miniatures on ivory. Although tiny, they show no lessening of powers. Free now to please nobody but himself, Goya moves between extremes of terror and sensuality with practised ease. Having fought for the right to escape from the tyranny of commission, he ensured that these bitter-sweet summations were the most innovative of all his uninhibited visions. Executed in his eighties, they could easily have been painted by an adventurous young artist today.

● Goya: The Small Paintings, *in association with* The Times *and Classic FM, with the support of Iberia, at the Royal Academy (071-439 7438) from tomorrow until June 12*

CONCERT

Beauty beyond words?

Jessye Norman
Barbican

London might have seen rather more of Jessye Norman in recent years were it not for the daunting fees she reputedly commands. The London Symphony Orchestra has obviously decided she is worth it, for she has been signed for a series of concerts extending over five years, given the singularly meaningless title "Impressions". The series was initiated at the Barbican on Monday night with the first of this season's trio of concerts: a gala event in aid of the LSO Endowment Fund.

Jessye Norman in the flesh, so to speak, is a very different phenomenon from Jessye Norman on disc. She has immense presence, the statuesque pose and rhetorical gestures holding her own and the audience's attention like a taut thread from the moment she raises that leonine head to signal readiness, to the inordinately delayed lowering of it as the last echoes die away.

Such a mesmeric presence on the platform can persuade one that the interpretation is more profound than it really is. There is also the voice, of course: a glorious instrument that enfolds and engulfs the listener.

But still the doubts come. Does Norman's reading of Britten's *Phaedra* have the special intensity that its first interpreter, Janet Baker, brought to it? Does Norman's rendering of the closing scene from Strauss's *Capriccio*, for all its ravishing sounds, really reflect the quicksilver play of emotions intimated in the text?

Certainly, beauty of tone takes precedence over diction. There were plenty of stirring moments, yet in the end they did not quite add up to the vibrant account they promised.

Which comes first, music or words? Little doubt about Jessye Norman's answer to the dilemma posed in *Capriccio*. The text was again oddly garbled, and only a generalised sense of it came through — though that was enough to soften most hearts, especially against the backdrop of Colin Davis's luscious, lovingly realised (if occasionally overwhelming) accompaniment.

Davis, principal conductor of the LSO from next September, is just the man to tame the excesses of the orchestra's brass department. He brings a glowing ripeness of tone, as well as an interpretative depth, to such scores as Strauss's *Don Juan* and the "Sea Interludes" from *Peter Grimes*. The spine may be slow to tingle, but you know the result will be genuine communication, not studied gestures.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Is the recession over for galleries? **John Russell Taylor** scours Europe's most important art fair for evidence of recovery in the market

Picture of hope at Maastricht

The European Art Fair in Maastricht is often regarded as a barometer for the state of the art market. One of the largest art fairs in the world, not to say the longest (ten days, as against a maximum of four for most others), it is also by far the most coherent and orderly. The plentiful space of the Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre is divided into some 160 stands grouped according to their major interests, from contemporary painting to antique sculpture, illuminated manuscripts to figured leather wall-covering, pre-Columbian textiles to Art Nouveau glass.

With such variety on display, it is hard to spot trends, and impossible at the beginning of the fair to guess how well participants will do financially when all the balances are drawn up. But such guesswork is inevitable. Not only are dealers anxiously scanning the horizon for marketable discoveries or rediscoveries. Collectors, too, want to know what is reasonably priced and what overpriced; they are eager to catch the fashion before it has quite defined itself, when it is still notionally possible to find a bargain.

This year's fair offers some indicators, both comforting and less comforting. One thing remains very obvious: if real quality at an affordable price is what you are looking for, go for works on paper. Perhaps because the watercolour has always been regarded as a minor form, or perhaps because the world-wide panic in conservation departments about looking after works on paper has rubbed off on the general public, it is still possible to get more quality for less money here than almost anywhere else. A gallery like London's Wolseley Fine Arts, for instance, manages to come up with wonders national and international, and even dares risk promoting a Flemish artist, Eugeen Van Mieghem (1875-1926), whose work is quite unknown in Britain and not as yet very highly valued even in his own country.

A pair of malachite vases included in the exhibition of "Treasures from the Hermitage" at the Maastricht fair

Otherwise, monographic displays are fairly thin on the ground, though the Brussels Galerie d'Arenberg offers an honourable exception with a stand devoted entirely to "souvenirs d'Italie" by G.F.J. Closson (1796-1842), whose meticulously finished oil studies of landscape detail look — to English eyes — pure Pre-Raphaelite. The Montgomery Gallery of San Francisco also has a go with a little-known Belgian-American artist, Paul Jean Martel (1879-1944), whose hazy landscapes are attractive and distinctive.

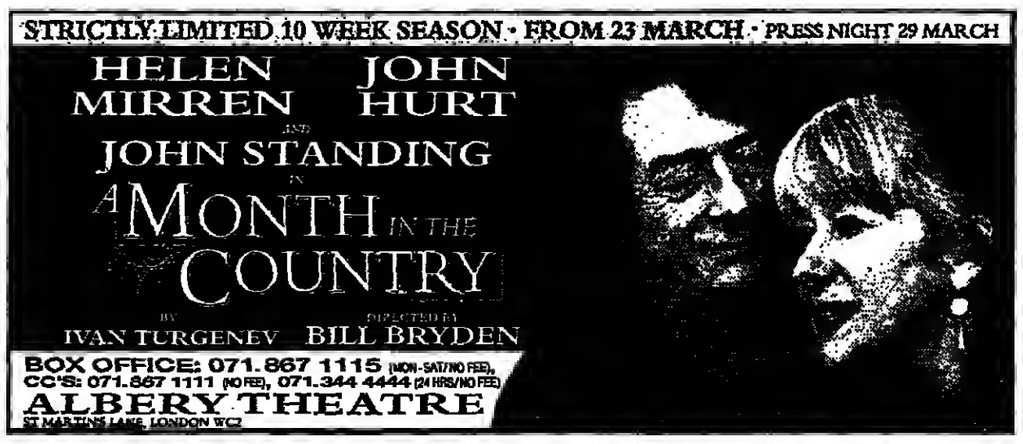
Otherwise, the most obvious trend, to be expected in a fair on the border of Holland and Belgium, is the promotion (fully justified, be it said) of local turn-of-the-century artists like Jan Sluijters, Leo Gestel and Jan Toorop into some kind of major league.

This, indeed, is typical of the fair in general: it is often an exercise in delicately scraping the barrel without suggesting you are anywhere near the bottom. Few first-rank Impressionists or Post-Impressionists this year, for instance, but a lot of first-rank pictures by second-rank artists like Guillaumin or Rops, Moret or Valtat.

Among the Old Masters on show, it is Agnew's small Rubens sketch of *The Holy Family* visited by various saints which has attracted the most attention, but the most impressive work on the stand is actually *Achilles Deciding to Resume Fighting upon the Death of Patroclus* by the much less famous Dirck van Baburen. The 20th-Century section this year is elevated, mainly by the British participation of such as Marlborough, Waddington and Mayor, half-banishing the kitschy local best-sellers which have been staple in previous years. Among other sections, the textiles go from strength to strength and the leather wall-coverings of Essen's Galerie Glass are stunning.

How will it do? How much will they all fetch? As one takes refuge for a few moments in the amazing loan exhibition of "Treasures from the Hermitage", full of icons and malachite and two 2,500-year-old felt birds from the freezing lands of the Altai, it is hard to guess, but impossible not to be somewhat encouraged.

● The European Art Fair *is at the Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre until Sunday, weekdays 11am-6pm, weekends 11am-6pm. Ticket enquiries, 073-145 165*



TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

LONDON

TOWARDS THE MILLENNIUM 1931-40: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra continues its Thames festival under Simon Rattle with a programme that moves from the sublime and sombre to the jazzy and high-spirited. Britten's *Sinfonia da Requiem*, Messiaen's *Poèmes pour mi*, and the suite from Berg's opera *Lulu*, come first. Then Rattle goes into Gershwin mode, with three works by the American.
Festival Hall, The South Bank Centre, SE1 (071-928 8800). Tonight, 7.30pm. (S)

DEMOCRACY: British premiere for Canadian John Murrell's play set in 1863. Walt Whitman and Ralph Waldo Emerson provide sanctuary for two Civil War soldiers
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, W12 (081-743 3388). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Opens Fri, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm.

HOT SHOE SHUFFLE: First night of previews for the hit Australian musical about seven tap-dancing brothers and their tangle-footed sister. Lots of Big Band music.
Queens, Shaftsbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5040). Tonight, 8pm. Opens March 22, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm (S)

DER ROSENKAVALIER: Tickets are scarce for Jonathan Miller's thoughtful ENO production of Strauss's most popular opera, but it's worth the effort. Anne Evans (Marschallin) and John Tomlinson (Baron Ochs) make powerful antagonists, and Jakov Kreizberg's conducting is appropriately astringent.
London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161). Tonight, 6.30pm. (S)

KING LEAR: Excellent Ben Thomas ages up to play the hero in Talawa Theatre's touring production. The first black Lear to play London since mid-Victorian days.
Cochrane, Southampton Row, WC1 (071-242 7040). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 7.30pm. Opens March 18, 7pm. Then Mon to Sat, 7.30pm. Mats: Tue (March 22, April 12), Thurs (March 17, 24, April 14), Sat (April 9): 2.30pm. Till April 16. (S)

ELSEWHERE

EDINBURGH: To celebrate the anniversary of **The Birth of Democracy** in Athens in 507-508BC, the Royal Museum of Scotland is staging a substantial show of archaeological finds from the site of the ancient city's market-place.
Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh (031-225 7534). Mon to Sat, 10am to 5pm; Sun, noon to 5pm. Admission free. (S)

LIVERPOOL: First day of **Venus Redefined**, an exploration of the nude as seen by sculptors at the beginning of this century. Matisse's *Bacchi* series of four bronzes is the exhibition centrepiece, with works by Maillol, Rodin and Renoir.
Tate Gallery, Albert Dock, Liverpool (051-709 3223). Tues to Sun, 10am to 6pm. Admission free. (S)

MANCHESTER. British premiere of Peter Brook's **The Man Who...** based on Oliver Sacks's neurological studies, including the one about a doctor who confused his wife and his hat. A coup for the Contact.
Contact, Oxford Road, (061-274 4400). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm. Until Mar 26. (S)

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: All Human Life: Hulton Deutsch Collection (071-638 4141) ... **British Museum:** Study of Italian Old Master Drawings; Deities and Devotions: Hindu Art (071-636 1555) ... **Festival Hall:** The Thirties, Anxiety and Escapism (071-928 3002) ... **Hayward:** Salvador Dali/Unbound ... **National Portrait Gallery:** Holbein and the Court of Henry VIII (071-306 0055) ... **National Gallery:** Claude, the Poetic Landscape (071-839 3321) ... **Royal Academy of Arts:** Art of the Ancient World; The Unknown Modigliani (071-439 7438) **Tate:** Picasso; Writing on the Wall: women artists (071-887 8008) ... **V & A:** Fabergé; The Golden Age 1730-1760: brass inlaid furniture (071-938 8500)

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◪ **Some seats available**
□ **Seats at all prices**

■ **THE ABSENCE OF WAR:** John Thaw stars in David Hare's study of the Labour Party. Brilliant, necessary, or unfair, depending on your point of view. Final week of performances
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252) Tonight, 7.15pm. (S)

□ **APRIL IN PARIS:** Gary Olsen and Maria Friedman in John Godber's simplistic play about the benefits of travel.
Ambassadors, West Street, WC2 (071-836 9111). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs 3pm, Sat 5pm and Sun 4pm.

□ **THE BIRTHDAY PARTY.** Anton Lesser is cosseted by Dora Bryan in a strongly cast revival of Pinter's first full-length play. Sam Mendes directs.
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Last preview tonight, 7.30pm. Opens March 17, 7pm then in repertoire. (S)

■ **CABARET:** Jane Horrocks (Sally Bowles) and Alan Cumming, fresh from *Hamlet*, as the MC, dancing with death in the last days before Hitler.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham St, WC2 (071-867 1150) Mon-Sat, 8pm: mats Wed, Sat 3pm..

◪ **THE EAGLE HAS TWO HEADS:** Susannah York directs Lisa Harrow and Stash Kirkbridge as Queen and assassin in Cocteau's high romantic drama.
Lilian Baylis, Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (071-837 4104). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 3.30pm. Until Apr 2. (S)

■ **EDDIE IZZARD:** The man is back for another solo season of comedy and sharp good sense.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-867 1115). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

□ **THE FLAG:** Opening production by Moving Theatre. Play based on a Robert Shaw novel set in a Suffolk parish in 1926. The strong cast includes Jennifer Hilary, Kika Markham, Corin Redgrave.
Bridge Lane, Bridge Lane, Battersea, SW11 (071-228 8828). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sun, 4pm (not Mar 27) 4pm. Until April 2.

□ **POOTFALLS:** Twenty minutes of Beckett. Deborah Warner directs Fiona Shaw in a tight, sharp vision where every word, every pause counts.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm and 9.30pm. Until Saturday.

◪ **JANE EYRE:** Alexandra Mathie and Tim Pigott-Smith do their best in Fay Weldon's puzzling version of the well-known melodrama.
Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs and Sat 3pm. (S)

■ **THE LIFE OF GALILEO:** David Hare's new version of the Brecht. Richard Griffiths plays the worldly-wise scientist hemstrung by the Inquisition.
Almeida, Almeida St, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until April 2. (S)

□ **THE OLD LADIES:** Faith Brook, Doreen Mantle and Miriam Karlin in Rodney Ackland's tense thriller, set in a cathedral city and concerning a mysterious piece of amber.
Greenwich, Croom's Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until April 2. (S)

□ **OMMA:** Subtitled *Oedipus and the Luck of Thebes*. Tim Supple's production of Kenneth McLeish's script, which draws on many Greek sources.
Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (071-928 6363). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat today, 2pm and Sat, 3pm. Until April 2. (S)

□ **SEPTEMBER TIDE:** Daphne du Maurier's drama of inappropriate passion arrives in the West End again (last time, 1948), from the King's Head. With Susannah York.
Comedy, Panton St, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed 3pm and Sat 4pm.

■ **THE THREE LIVES OF LUCIE CABROL:** Complicité's moving staging of John Berger's tale of an Alpine woman loving and enduring all.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (081-748 3354). Mon-Sat, 8 pm; mats some Sat, 3.30 pm. Until Apr 9. (S)

■ **WICKED, YAAR!:** Urban fairytale about a bullied Asian cricketing hopeful. Missed opportunities for a tough analysis of racism, though.
National, (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). March 16-19, 7.30pm; mats Thurs and Sat, 2.30pm. (S)

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **An Absolute Turkey:** Globe (071-494 5085) ... ◪ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (071-867 1044) ... □ **Buddy:** Victoria Palace (071-834 1317) ... □ **Carousel:** Shaftesbury (071-379 5399) ... ◪ **Cats:** New London (071-405 0072) ... □ **Crazy for You:** Prince Edward (071-734 8951) ... □ **Don't Dress for Dinner:** Duchess (071-494 5070) ... ◪ **Five Guys Named Moe:** Lyric (071-494 5045) ... ■ **Grease:** Dominion (071-580 9562) ... □ **An Inspector Calls:** Aldwych (071-836 6404) ... □ **Me and Mamie O'Rourke:** Strand (071-930 8800) ... ◪ **Les Miserables:** Palace (071-434 0909) ... ◪ **Miss Saigon:** Theatre Royal (071-494 5400) ... □ **The Mousetrap:** St Martin's (071-836 1443) ... □ **Oleanna:** Duke of York's (071-836 5122) ... ■ **The Phantom of the Opera:** Her Majesty's (071-494 5400) ... □ **Pluf:** Piccadilly (071-867 1118) ... □ **Relative Values:** Savoy (071-836 8888) ... □ **Starlight Express:** Apollo Victoria (071-828 8665) ... □ **Travels With My Aunt:** Whitehall (071-867 1119) ... □ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (071-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

THE JOY LUCK CLUB (15): Handsome but shallow version of Amy Tan's novel about Chinese-American families and culture. Wayne Wang directs an accomplished cast.
Curzon West End (071-439 4805)
MGM Fulham Road (◪) (071-370 2636)
Screen/Baker Street (071-935 2772)
Screen/Hill (◪) (071-435 3366)

◆ **MY LIFE** (12): Michael Keaton, dying of cancer, makes a video scrapbook for his future offspring. Dubious schmaltz with Nicole Kidman.
MGMs: Chelsea (071-352 5096)
Haymarket (071-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148)
Trocadero (◪) (071-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **Warner** (◪) (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** (◪) (071-792 3332)

◆ **ON DEADLY GROUND** (15): Absurd, violent tale of Steven Seagal saving Alaska from a rapacious oil company. Seagal also directs. With Michael Caine and Joan Chen.
MGMs: Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Oxford Street** (071-636 0310)
Trocadero (◪) (071-434 0031) **Odeon Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **Warner** (◪) (071-437 4343) **UCI Whiteleys** (◪) (071-792 3332)

PETAIN (12): Worthy slice of history from director Jean Marboeuf, with Jacques Dufilho as Marshal Pétain and Jean Yanne as Pierre Laval, leaders of Vichy France.
Swiss Centre (071-439 4470)

CURRENT

THE BALLAD OF LITTLE JO (15). Over-solemn feminist Western about a girl who passes as a man in a gold-rush mining town. Directed by Maggie Greenwald and starring Suzy Amis.
Metro (071-437 0757)

◆ **PHILADELPHIA** (12): An Aids victim's fight for justice. Compromises galore but dynamically told. With Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington; Jonathan Demme directs.
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096)
Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666)
Leicester Square (0426-915 683)
Swiss Cottage (0426 914096) **UCI Whiteleys** (◪) (071-792 3332)

THE PIANO (15): Jane Campion's magnificent tale of repression and desire in mid-19th century New Zealand. With Holly Hunter, Sam Neill, Harvey Keitel.
MGMs: Panton Street (071-930 0631)
Swiss Centre (071-439 4470) **Plaza** (0800 888987)

◆ **SCHINDLER'S LIST** (15): German businessman (Liam Neeson) saves his Jewish workers from the camps. Impressive, grown-up epic from Steven Spielberg co-stars Ralph Fiennes and Ben Kingsley.
Barbican (◪) (071-638 8891) **Empire** (◪) (0800-888 911) **MGMs: Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **Trocadero** (◪) (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (◪) (071-792 3332)

SHADOWLANDS (U): Skilful rendition of William Nicholson's play about C. S. Lewis's emotional awakening. With Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger; Richard Attenborough directs.
Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **West End** (0426-915 574) **UCI Whiteleys** (◪) (071-792 3332)

SHORT CUTS (18): Robert Altman's superb cast present a dazzling kaleidoscope of fractured lives in Los Angeles.
Chelsea Cinema (071-351 3742) **Gate** (◪) (071-727 4043) **Lumiere** (071-836 0691) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426-914 666) **Swiss Cottage** (0426 914096) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen/Green** (071-226 3520) **Warner** (071-437 4343)

OPERA: A new Stravinsky double-bill in Monte Carlo; and a matinee show at the Coliseum

Complex distractions in Thebes

If you are going to stage Stravinsky's opera-oratorio, **Oedipus Rex**, you may as well make it thoroughly stagey — whatever the problems imposed by a narrator who anticipates the action at every turn. Petrika Ionesco's new production for Monte Carlo Opera seems at first to promise something radical in this respect: the curtain rises and a regal female figure descends to the stage in an illuminated triangular lift. This must be Jocasta, and what an inspiration to have her doing the narration! The two warring elements, the epic and the dramatic, are at a stroke fused into one.

Actually, as anyone who recognises Françoise Fabian would know immediately, this is not Jocasta but just another narrator, distinguished actress though she is. However, while waiting for Lucia Valentini-Terrani to make her authoritative entry as Jocasta, there is Ionesco's handsomely designed relief sculpture of a sacrificial beast to admire. Better still, there is the musically dangerous but theatrically effective strategy of getting the chorus on the move: the victims of the plague struggle in a metal cage while the healthy ones file past them optimistically flicking the Theban equivalent of holy water in their direction. At the same time, under the (at this point) incisive direction of Lawrence Foster, they deliver a commendably cohesive and impassioned account of the opening chorus.

Unfortunately, the discipline exercised here does not last. Ionesco, it seems, is one of those directors who cannot be happy unless two or three things are happening at once — which, in a work described by its composer as a "still life", is a liability.

As Oedipus realises the enormity of his sins, the acts of parricide and incest are laboriously presented in mime, together with the events that led up to them. With the French narration, the Latin text itself, and the surtitles as well, the side-show is not only superfluous but damagingly distracting. The impact of the score is diminished accordingly.

There is no escaping the fact that in *Oedipus Rex* every one of the choruses and arias has to be set up separately; they cannot be absorbed into a dramatic continuity. It is also axiomatic, in a score which is so conscious of style and so shy of emotion, that the conductor cannot afford to yield to sentiment for more than a fleeting moment or two. In accommodating himself to Ionesco's high-drama approach to it, Foster is attempting the impossible. He is defeated at an early stage anyway by an Oedipus, Vinson Cole, with an ill-focused line and a self-indulgent attitude to rhythm.

The most attractive performance in the whole evening — which includes **Le Rossignol** as the other half of a Stravinsky double-bill — is that of Alexandrina Pendatchanska (Monte Carlo's Ophélie last season, its Gilda next season) as the Nightingale. Looking wonderful in her silver feathers and sounding mellifluous in her elevated coloratura, she almost single-handedly rescues a slender work from an overdesigned production. Lawrence Foster, moreover, is unusually successful in uncovering the lyrical strain common to all three acts; and where Ionesco contents himself with simplicity — floating the fisherman's little boat in blue-gauze water — the designer-director proves that he is not incapable of supplying the appropriate poetic imagery.

GERALD LARNER

Epic and dramatic fused into one: Petrika Ionesco's radical staging in Monte Carlo of Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*, using his own designs

Alexandrina Pendatchanska in Stravinsky's *Le Rossignol*

Sparklers before tea

The Pearl Fishers
Coliseum

ENGLISH National Opera is running a clutch of Saturday afternoon performances of Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers* up to Easter. The effect is a little like going to the matinee of a Broadway musical; especially now that Philip Prowse has prettified his sombre 1987 production with lots of quasi-Oriental glitter, as Rodney Milnes noted after the first night. In effect, *Kismet* comes back to the Colly and seems much to the taste of an audience (mainly elderly) happy to rehear the old tunes and see the sparklers illumine the Sinhalese night.

A new cast comes in during daylight hours, of which the baritone Michael Lewis is by far the most impressive member. Zurga is the man who makes the decisions in *The Pearl Fishers* and he is the only character handed to Bizet not made of pure pasteboard.

Lewis, in black jackboots and matching beard, finally exchanges murderous thoughts for magnanimity as he lets the lovers, Leila and Nadir, escape into the night. The voice is sturdy and commands the house, especially in the Act III aria where Zurga laments the rupture of his friendship with Nadir.

The latter role looked a natural for Justin Lavender, who has long specialised in high tenor parts. But the head tones for Nadir's dream, "Je crois entendre encore", eluded him. He was happier in duet with Leila as the pair make their way to safety while the orchestra thunders out the opera's hit tune, "Au fond du temple". Elizabeth Woolett's rather hard soprano was not ideal for Leila, which needs a considerably more lyrical voice.

The ENO's chorus, heavily daubed in assorted shades of brown, was in lusty form, although the articulation of the ancient English translation by Nell and John Moody was poor. Just as well, perhaps. Alexander Sander in the pit fully relished the old songs with their orchestral sprinkling of oriental spice.

JOHN HIGGINS

OPERA IN CONCERT: Rare Verdi revived

Another exciting find in month of sopranos

Ernani
Barbican

THE squad announced for Verdi's *Ernani* underwent some alterations before Thursday's performance got under way. There was a change of conductor and then the bass Alexander Anisimov withdrew. A last-minute blow came in the shape of a throat infection forcing out Fabio Armiliato, a young Italian tenor due to make his London debut in the title role. Opera in Concert deserves credit for getting the show on stage at all, but there was a feeling in the air of what might have been.

Fortunately, the evening's star attraction, Maria Guleghina, was still there. She caught the ear just before Christmas as Liza in the Kirov's fine recording of *The Queen of Spades* under Valery Gergiev. Recently she has been at the Met singing Tosca to Domingo's Cavaradossi. Guleghina is an out and out dramatic soprano, fearless in her vocal attack. Elvira's opening aria, "Ernani, Ernani, involami", which has undone many a soprano (including Freni when she tried the part at La Scala a decade ago), inspired no qualms in Guleghina, who positively bestrode it. The following cabaletta was especially brilliant and made one long to hear her in *Trovatore* or *Forza*.

March, though only half through, has been a marvellous month in London for discovering the rising generation of sopranos: Prokina in Covent Garden's *Katya*, Frittoli in the Barbican *Bohème* and now the Ukrainian Guleghina. All three are utterly different and utterly accomplished.

Verdi throws poor Elvira like a parcel from suitor to suitor. There is her elderly guardian, Silva; Carlo, King of Spain; and the nobleman, temporarily engaged in banditry, Ernani. The latter role requires an heroic tenor and it is difficult to fit Anthony Mee, fine character performer though he is, into that bill. He made a decent stab at Ernani's opening aria but thereafter was swamped by the far bigger voices around him, especially that of Guleghina who dominated every ensemble.

Anthony Michaels-Moore had no volume problems as Carlo, but at times seemed not yet at ease with a part which should have suited him well. Carlo's "Oh, de verd'anni miei" lacked generosity and suavity of tone and it was not until the great Act III finale, "O sommo Carlo", that Michaels-Moore showed his class. Alastair Miles was gravely sonorous as the implacable Silva.

Oliver von Dohnanyi conducted the English Chamber Orchestra and Pro Musica Chorus with much Verdian drive, but did not avoid the feeling that rather grander and larger forces are needed for this opera, especially in Act III. *Ernani* may be very early Verdi, but it is majestic Verdi and needs casting accordingly. Covent Garden please note when it enters the repertory later in the Nineties.

JOHN HIGGINS

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

Michael Parkin Gallery. Roland Collins London-Dieppe retrospective 1937-1994. 11, Motcomb Street SW1 Tel 071 235 8144

SOCIETY OF WOMEN ARTISTS 113rd Annual Exhibition. Westminster Gallery, Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, London, SW1. Tel: 071 222 2723 From 11th to 22nd March. 10am - 7pm daily (excluding Sundays). Over 700 exhibits. Admission free.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 836 3161 (24hr) ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA Ton't 6.30 (LAST PERF) DER ROSENKAVALIER Tomor 7.30 THE PEARL FISHERS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 071 240 1066/1911. Tickets avail on the day. Stand-by info 836 6903. THE ROYAL OPERA Tomor 7.30 Katya Kabanova. Fri 7.30 Un ballo in maschera.

CLASSICAL CONCERTS

PRIMA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA with Louise Jones (Violin) at St James's Piccadilly, 18th March 1994 at 7.30pm
PROGRAMME
Oberon Overture - WEBER
Violin Concerto in E minor - MENDELSSOHN
Octet - STRAVINSKY
Symphony No4 - SCHUMANN
Conductor.....RICHARD ANDERSON
Leader.....LOUISE JONES
Tickets £10 (£9 concessions) & £6 (£5 concessions)
Tickets available in person from Box Office or by credit card on 071 437 5653

SADLER'S WELLS 071-278 8916 Compania Nacional de Danza Prog 1 on 15, 18 & 19 March, Prog 2 on 16 & 17 March at 7.30pm. "on a par with the best dance companies in Europe" El Mundo.

THEATRES

ADELPHI "Andrew Lloyd Webber's Amazing Technicolor Sunset" Los Angeles Times SUNSET BOULEVARD RE-OPENS ON APRIL 7th WITH THE AWARD-WINNING LOS ANGELES PRODUCTION 24HR CREDIT CARD BOOKINGS CALL 071 344 0055 (bkg fee) GRP BOOKING 071 413 3302 (bkg fee) NO BKG FEE FOR PERSONAL CALLERS AT THE ADELPHI BOX OFFICE Recorded information 071 379 5884 Mon-Sat 8.00 Mats Thur & Sat 3.00

ALBERY THEATRE 071 867 1115/1111 cc 24hr 071 344 4444 Previews from 23 March HELEN MIRREN JOHN HURT AND JOHN STANDING A MONTH IN THE COUNTRY Directed by Bill Bryden Evgs 7.30 Mats Thurs & Sats 3.00

ALDWYCH 071 836 6404/CC 497 9977 Group Sales 071 930 6123 "AS CONCENTRATED A PIECE OF THEATRICAL PERFECTION AS YOU WILL FIND ANYWHERE" Today The Royal National Theatre's multi award-winning production of J.B. Priestley's AN INSPECTOR CALLS "A CLASSIC PIECE OF THEATRE" S Times Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 5pm & 8.15pm, Wed Mat 2.30pm

AMBASSADORS 071 836 9111 cc 071 497 9977 Nominated BEST COMEDY 1994 Olivier Awards "VERY FUNNY" The Independent "SUPERB" F.T. APRIL IN PARIS by JOHN GODBER Tues-Sat 8pm, SUN 4pm, Mats Thurs 3pm & Sat 5pm

APOLLO VICTORIA cc 071 416 6043 cc 24hrs 071 344 4444/071 497 9977 Grps 071 416 6075/071 413 3321 "Andrew Lloyd Webber's New production of STARLIGHT EXPRESS "A REBORN THEATRICAL DELIGHT" Daily Mail White knuckle runs 19.45 daily Tue & Sat 15.00 Tickets from £10.00

ARTS THEATRE BO 071 836 2132 CC (24hr, no bkg fee) 071 344 4444 ANORAK OF FIRE THE LIFE AND TIMES OF GUS GASCOIGNE TRANSPOTTER "Superb...Glorious" D Tel. "Hilarious...A Gem" S Times Tues-Fri 8pm, Sat 5 & 8pm

CALL 071-481 1920 To place your entertainment advert in THE TIMES

COMEDY BO/CC 071 867 1045/071 344 4444/071 497 9977 Susannah York "Magical" Daily Mail Michael Praed "A revelation" Daily Telegraph Daphne Du Maurier's SEPTEMBER TIDE "Gripping, beautifully acted, thoroughly entertaining, a classic" D.Tel Mon - Sat 8, Mats Wed 3, Sat 5

DOMINION Ticketlines 071 416 6060 071 497 9977 (bkg fee). Grps 071 416 6075/413 3321/240 7941 GREASE Starring CRAIG McLACHLAN and DEBBIE GIBSON "A monster hit" Daily Mirror Eves 7.30pm Mats Wed & Sat 3pm Some standing room avail daily NOW BOOKING TO JAN 1995

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DUKE OF YORK'S THEATRE 071 836 5122 cc 836 9837 24hrs/7 days 836 3464, 344 4444 Denis Lawson Michelle Fairley OLEANNA by David Mamet Directed by Harold Pinter If you haven't seen it, you can't argue about it Eves 7.30, Thur Mat 3, Sat Mat 4 Olivier Award nomination Best Play

FORTUNE BO & CC 071 836 2238 CC 497 9977 (24hrs No fee) 344 4444 (No fee)/ Grps 930 6123 "A REAL THRILL OF HORROR" S.Times JOHN NETTLETON BRIAN DEACON Susan Hill's THE WOMAN IN BLACK Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt Eves 8pm Mats Tue 3pm Sat 4pm

GARRICK 071 494 5085/497 9977 FIONA SHAW in FOOTFALLS by SAMUEL BECKETT Dir by DEBORAH WARNER UNTIL SATURDAY ONLY Tickets £4 PERF ONLY 20 MINS Eves 7.30 & 9.30. Sat also 11.30.

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LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 or 071 836 3464 (24hrs/no bkg fee) Rose Bruford College's CUTTIN' A RUG 17 Mar 7.45, 18-19 Mar 2.30 & 7.45 LYRIC STUDIO 081 741 8701 Red Alert Theatre Co. 14-16 Mar 8pm.

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252 Grps 071 930 0741; 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977 OLIVIER Ton't 7.15, Tomor 2.00 & 7.15 THE ABSENCE OF WAR David Hare. LYTTELTON Ton't 7.30 (PREVIEW) Tomor 7.00 (PRESS NIGHT) THE BIRTHDAY PARTY Harold Pinter COTTESLOE Ton't 7.30, Tomor 2.30 & 7.30 WICKED YAAR! Barry Lyons.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane BO 071 405 0072 CC 071 404 4079 24hr 344 4444, Grps 930 6123 THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER /T.S. ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL CATS Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00 LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION, PLEASE BE PROMPT. Bars open at 6.45 LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PALACE THEATRE 071-434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 071-344 4444/497 9977/071 753 1000 Group Sales 071 930 6123 Groups 071 494 1671 THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL LES MISERABLES Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30 Latecomers not admitted until the interval LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

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ROYAL COURT 071-730 1745/2554 cc 836 2428 (24hrs) 836 6122 THE KITCHEN by Arnold Wesker Sold Out, returns only.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY LONDON (071 836 8891 cc Mon - Sun 9am-8pm) BARBICAN THEATRE THE MERCHANT OF VENICE Previews from 4 April THE PIT: GHOSTS Previews from 31 March STRATFORD-UPON-AVON (0789 295623 cc Mon-Sat 9am-8pm) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE MACBETH Ton't, Fri 7.30, Thu, Sat 2.30 & 7.30 SWAN THEATRE: WILDEST DREAMS Ton't, Fri 7.30, Tomor, Sat 2.30 & 7.30. Meal/Ticket/Hotel package 0789 414693.

SAVOY THEATRE BO/CC 071 836 8888 cc 497 9977 (24hrs no bkg fee) SUSAN HAMPSHIRE SARAH BRIGHTMAN ALISON FRISKE ANTHONY SATE in NOEL COWARD'S "WICKEDLY ENJOYABLE" D. Tel RELATIVE VALUES Directed by TIM LUSCOMBE "JOYOUS" F.T. "SPARKLING... A COMEDY WITH REAL BITE" Time Out Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00 FINAL WEEK

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STRAND BO/CC 071 930 8800 24hr cc 071 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Grps 071 413 3321 DAWN FRENCH JENNIFER SAUNDERS ME & MAMIE O'ROURKE by Mary Agnes Donoghue "Sublime Comic Genius" D.Mail Dir by Robert Allan Ackerman LTD SEASON LAST 4 WEEKS Mon-Thur 8, Fri 8.45, Sat 5.45 & 8.45

STRAND BO/CC 071 930 8800 24hr cc 344 4444 (no bkg fee) Grps 930 6123/413 3321 RICHARD WILSON ANGELA THORNE in MICHAEL PALIN'S COMEDY THE WEEKEND Directed by Robin Lefevre Prev's 28 April, Opens 3 May

VAUDEVILLE BO/CC 071 836 9987 CC 071 497 9977 BEST ENTERTAINMENT OLIVIER AWARD NOMINATION KIT & THE WIDOW A MUSICAL REVUE LAST 2 WEEKS "You'd be silly to miss it" S. Exp Mon-Fri 7.30, Sat 6 & 8.30 Extra show 23 March 3.00pm

VAUDEVILLE BO/CC 836 9987 CC 497 9977 (No Fee) OPENS APRIL 6 Evenings 7.45 Mat Wed & Sat at 3.00 Zoë Wanamaker Niall Buggy Bernie Edney David Haig Danny Webb in DEAD FUNNY A New Comedy by Terry Johnson

VAUDEVILLE B

The Prince in perspective

Marcus Binney welcomes the sound arguments in Prince Charles's new architectural magazine

The Prince of Wales's new magazine, *Perspectives on Architecture*, is a good read, and a substantial one. Here, thank goodness, is an end to the 1980s magazine obsession with white space and huge typefaces. While architectural magazines are often and off-putting to the general reader, *Perspectives* is exceptionally well-edited and presented, making telling use of small photographs as well as large ones.

Against expectations, the magazine's strongest suit is not architecture, but controversies over planning and development. It is particularly fresh on one of the Prince's favourite hobby horses: public participation.

There is a strongly argued and well-grounded attack on the government's road building programme, highlighting the Transport Secretary, John MacGregor's, headlong and chaotic retreat on road expenditure. It shows how the Government bypass building programme is really a means of building motorways across the countryside by stealth. In the past, ministers have stitched up the results of public inquiries by proposing new roads in short stretches with fixed beginnings and ends. Now protesters in Salisbury, Wiltshire, have successfully mounted an A36 Corridor Alliance providing a much needed challenge to a questionable project. Even *Construction News*, mouthpiece of the big builders, is, it seems, puzzled by "the apparent discrimination in favour of roads and against rail and public transport".

Speaking up for modern architecture

> ‘The monthly's strongest suit is not architecture, but planning and development controversies’

Another revealing article looks at Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk, one of the few historic towns to have escaped huge precinct shopping developments in the 1980s, but where current proposals would change the whole centre of gravity of the town. Here a clever report, giving space to all sides, suggests the developers may be on the run.

A much-needed attack is mounted on one of the mistaken darlings of the Green lobby — the wind turbine. Romantic as a countryside dominated by windmills might seem, the new wind turbines are not only unsightly (and being high, visible for miles around), they are the newest form of noise pollution, almost worse than motorways.

Perspectives makes the scale of the threat clear. Landowners can earn £2,000 a year in rent from each one of these machines and there is a presumption in favour of planning applications on the ground that they are a form of "sustainable energy".

Local activists can take heart from the case of Mrs Margaret Tolputt, which the magazine highlights. When her backyard was threatened by ugly housing development, she bought up the land, hired her own architect, built the houses, even fighting off a threat of receivership. *Perspectives* nonetheless appears doubtful about her architecture, as the photographs are printed very small.

With new architecture, *Perspectives* has the problem of all monthlies, in that most exciting new buildings will have been reviewed prominently in the national dailies and Sundays. Its offering of Glyndebourne and Waterloo station are hardly news, although both are very well-illustrated, and offer at least one new angle.

Perspectives fulfils its promise of appealing to the general reader with a witty and perceptive article by Clive James (Michael Palin will follow). He sees the weaknesses of the new underground entrances of the Louvre rather more than *Perspectives*'s own news report. "Some of us don't go to the Louvre just to see the treasures," he writes. "We go to see the Louvre."

He also gently chides the Prince for placing too much emphasis on the Classical stylebook, rather than "on whether the user's feelings are represented or overridden". James's point is well-made: the whole magazine, and the Prince's own article, resounds with it.

A monthly magazine with news and views can be trapped by early press dates, and the main victim is an article on the National Lottery and the Millennium Fund, stating that the Department of National Heritage wants to spend the money on a handful of grand projects. In fact the opposite is true. Peter Brooke, the Heritage Secretary, wants to spread it across the country.

Intentionally or not, *Perspectives* contains no perspectives, apart from a cartoon of its own office. But Gavin Stamp makes the observation that the death of perspective drawing marked the opening of a gulf between architect and public. "It is no accident that some of the most brutal and unpopular buildings in history were sold to clients with often incomprehensible plans and sections — never with perspective drawings," he writes.

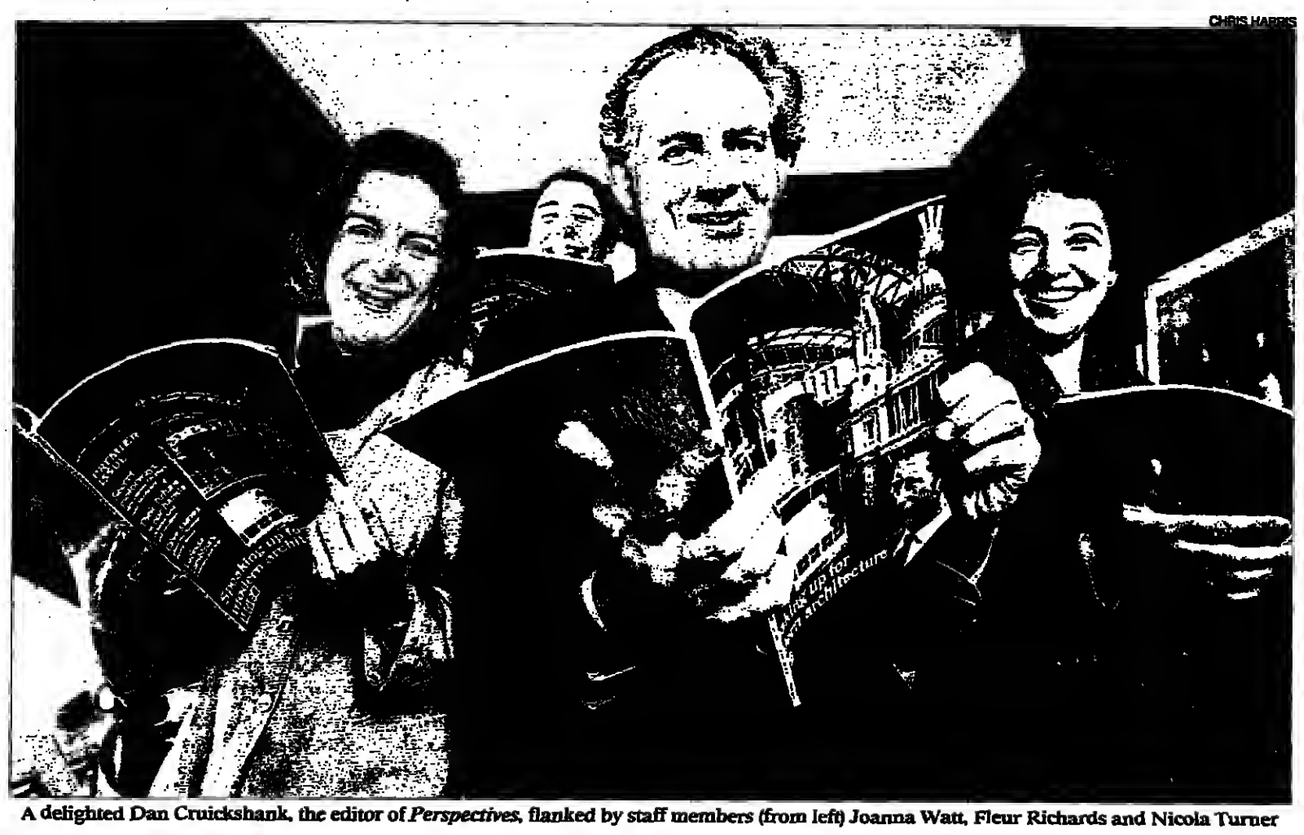
It is clear that *Perspectives* has been carefully positioned to avoid flak from architects and the architectural press. Although architects have gone ballistic over the Prince's criticisms of individual buildings and designs, the irony is that they share many of the same targets — the sheer banality and feebleness of the majority of new building across the country, whether volume-built housing and offices, or shopping malls, or government buildings such as hospitals and law courts — all of which lack creative architectural input.

It is one thing to seek improvement by praising the good, but plenty of people are doing that already. What is needed is an unrelenting attack on the banal and the mediocre. The world of architecture spawns new awards by the dozen. What is needed is more brickbats.

Every issue of *Perspectives* should contain several pages of outrage which would give civil servants, councillors, politicians, boards of governors, company directors and managers — all those who commission and pay for buildings — serious cause for concern, ensuring they could no longer expect to hide behind a cloak of anonymity and were at constant risk of biting censure and criticism.

● Perspectives on Architecture *goes on sale today (£2.50)*

CHRIS HARRIS


A delighted Dan Cruickshank, the editor of *Perspectives*, flanked by staff members (from left) Joanna Watt, Fleur Richards and Nicola Turner

THEATRE: Disappointment from 'the English Chekhov'; disability no bar to space travel

What can the matter be? Who cares?

The Old Ladies
Greenwich

RODNEY Ackland has been called "the English Chekhov". But nothing in this lengthy, painfully simple three-act play provides a hint as to why this should be. Since it is based on a popular novel by the once-popular Hugh Walpole, it is unfair to consider a dramatisation of another man's work as typical of his own.

Nonetheless, on the one hand dramatic surprise is conspicuously absent while, on the other, the inevitability of what happens to Miss Beringer, Mrs Amorest and Mrs Payne, the three old ladies, is pursued with none of the subtle complexity that might make one care.

The setting is an old house in a cathedral town to which the old ladies have drifted in their decline to genteel poverty. May Beringer, troubled by a bad knee, a dicky heart, a tendency to jump at sudden noises and a distaste for anything not nice, treasures a piece of amber presented by her best friend on departing to India.

One cannot help suspecting, though, that the friend may have felt the cost of the present a small price to pay for ridding her life of such a compulsive twitterer. Faith Brook's gasping breath, restless hands and permament panic are well-observed, but there is nothing else than this to the character, and growing impatience with the character spreads to the actress too.

Lucy Amorest, as her name suggests, is loving and kindly; she prays several times during the evening and trots about making cocoa and beef tea. In portraying her, the only other trait Doreen Mantle is required to show is simple trust that her long-lost son will one day seek her out.

Upstairs, Agatha Payne — ominous name — keeps a doll beside her on a child's chair and guzzles on nougat. She is rumoured to have gypsy blood and frightens poor Miss Beringer quite out of her wits once she falls in love with the amber.

This object is permanently lit in a golden spot because it is a Symbol. For Mrs Payne it is beauty, for Miss Beringer it recalls her one true love; but the words employed by these ladies to state their feelings are boringly prosaic and never pierce the heart with the lance of revelation.

Torpor interrupted by gruff impatience defines Mrs Payne, and Miriam Karlin overdoes the torpor. On the few occasions the script allows her to be animated, the play jerks into life.

"You can't beat fruit," she booms, trying on a hat like a greengrocer's tray. But the sinister climax, when at long last it comes, is disappointingly muted.

The multiple set, designed by Iona McLeish, cleverly uses the deep stage to show three rooms and a soaring stairway.

But Annie Castledine's direction just does not make Ackland's play go, either fast enough or towards any rewarding destination.

JEREMY KINGSTON

TRISTRAM KENTON

Faith Brook (Miss Beringer), Miriam Karlin (Mrs Payne) and Doreen Mantle (Mrs Amorest), with the symbolic piece of amber that rules their lives in *The Old Ladies*

RADIO

Sports in no need of records

Last week I provoked what editors fondly call "a lively correspondence" with pessimistic musings as to whether Radio 5's imminent progeny, Radio 5 Live, will do any better than its parent. This week, showing my well-known propensity for fairness and balance (oh come on), I propose a hymn of praise to sports coverage on that very network.

Oh look, there go all my women readers. Which is a pity, because not the least of Radio 5's sporting attributes is the recognition that sporting matters can be made interesting for women if only we can broaden the focus from the usual approach, which consists of covering a bunch of men kicking or hitting a ball about.

By happy chance, the past seven days have seen the return of **Sporting Albums**, the Radio 5 series which has a good track record, so to say, in picking out sporting persons who have something interesting to say (it is undeniable that the majority of these types are better advised to stick to kicking a ball about).

The racehorse trainer Jenny Pitman, a woman if ever I encountered one, comes across in post-race television interviews as something of a *femme formidable*: casual viewers would hardly suspect her of sentimentality, much less of wearing pink pyjamas.

Yet in this interview we met a different Pitman, albeit with the familiar thread of toughness that has helped to make her one of the country's leading trainers. Gently led by Garth Crooks, footballer-turned-broadcaster, Pitman revealed her tough side by saying that as a defender in the school hockey team her attitude to forwards was: "You're not getting past 'ere." Faced by Pitman, the look on the faces of the forwards apparently said: "Oh 'ell."

But there is another Pitman, and it is best described in the context of last year's Grand National fiasco, the race that had two false starts and failed to produce a winner. It was a Pitman horse that was first past the post, but that was to count for nothing.

Having ranted at the officials immediately after the race (the Pitman image that came over on television) her main concern thereafter was for a small boy called David, whom she had promised could lead her horse into the winner's enclosure.

During a fitful sleep in her hotel the night after the race, Pitman eventually woke at 5am troubled by images of the boy David. She was so distressed that she wandered out into the hotel corridor, in her pink pyjamas, and sought out the room occupied by her son so that she could talk through the trauma.

This is the kind of revelation that can make sport come alive for an audience far beyond the one that follows the results. The essence of sport is its appeal to the emotions, although you would hardly know it from listening to commentators and participants in the national game, football.

Otherwise sane women known to me genuinely loathe football, actually hate it, in part because their menfolk use the game as an exclusion zone, much like one of those hideous all-male London clubs.

The media contributes to this image by focusing on the what and the who rather than the why, so that "analysis" becomes nothing more than an argument about whether the goalkeeper should have covered the near post or the far one. Or whether a jockey used the whip eight times or nine. Thus is sport, among the most three-dimensional of human activities, rendered by most programmes into a single dimension.

Radio 5 Live will, it is to be hoped, have more airtime for programmes such as *Sporting Albums*, whose only flaw is that it lacks confidence in the product. Otherwise, why does it need interruptions of music? A pause to hear 16 bars of Elvis Presley's "Love Me Tender", for example, is not justified just because Pitman chose it. Let us hear the story in words and leave the music to desert islanders.

PETER BARNARD

THE TIMES
OWN YOUR OWN
Goya

The first major exhibition of the work of Francisco Goya for 30 years opens on March 17 at the Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London, W1.
Goya: Truth and Fantasy will contain about 100 small-scale paintings drawn from private collections, museums and galleries. The exhibition, which runs until June 12, is mounted in association with *The Times*, Classic FM and with support from Iberia Airlines.
To celebrate the power of Goya's art, The Times is offering readers a free reproduction print of Goya's 1794-95 painting Self-Portrait in the studio owned by Museo de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, Madrid. The reproduction print measures 510mm x 360mm including border and is printed on heavyweight paper.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE GOYA
Collect six tokens from *The Times* (the first was printed in *The Times* Magazine last Saturday, March 12, and one will be printed everyday this week). When you have collected six tokens, attach them to the coupon which appeared in The Times Magazine on Saturday, March 12. Full details of where to send your application and how to get your free reproduction print framed will also appear in the Weekend section on Saturday, March 19.

Museo de la Real Academia de Bellas Artes de San Fernando, Madrid
Self-Portrait in the Studio (detail), c.1794-95

THE TIMES
Goya
TOKEN 4

On top of the world

Hearts on Fire
Albany Empire, SE8

SOMETHING astronautical has landed in Deptford. *Hearts on Fire*, unexpectedly enjoyable in spite of difficulties, is a spacey experience. It's as if the local panto has been teleported to Mars, getting its quarks scrambled with a multi-media event en route, and rematerialising singing and dancing to rock music.

On the disability arts scene, the company Heart 'n' Soul, combining performers who have serious learning disabilities with computer graphics and live musicians, is creating a biggish bang. Captain Reality (Geoffrey Goodall), half Darth Vader, half Gary Glitter in his executioner's mask, shiny gear and thongy things, gurgles evilly and sings raucous punk blues.

His sidekick Starman '88 (Andy Bridle, a delightful physical comic even if he forgets his lines) truncheons the good guys. Captain Conscious's Cosmic Crew, with a Neanderthal rubber cudgel, and launches into a *Saturday Night Fever* routine. The word "clubbing" is projected on to the backcloth among the swirling pictures of planets and those alien rockets from amusement arcades.

This must be the month of cyberspace on stage. At the Barbican, Peer Gynt is mountaineering across a microchip, while a big-screen intergalactic onion bounces through far-out solar systems. Dozens of RSC spectators beamed themselves out in the blackouts when I saw that one.

Half the audience at *Hearts on Fire* exited en masse just before the end, but accidentally, I think, although the show does go on too long. The episodic shapelessness of this self-devised piece generates false finales.

Spoofing extraterrestrial adventures is a wise choice. Wooden acting, in this context, has a touch of *Thunderbirds*. Captain Reality's low-budget sci-fi chair, all silver spray paint and hardboard, recalls the rickety glories of Flash Gordon. The musical accompaniment and large video images cleverly enrich the production without outclassing the performers.

The dialogue does get garbled and, in tongue-in-cheek party mood, the plot is sent flying. The basic message, however, comes through loud and clear. The mentally and physically disadvantaged can express and respect themselves. They are able to beat Captain Reality — the unjust, authoritarian, prejudiced world — in the Game of Life.

KATE BASSETT

A WEEKEND IN THE PAST

THE TIMES
THE THEATRE CLUB

LEEDS
April 1537

THE Theatre Club has arranged a packed weekend in Leeds, featuring the world-renowned City Varieties Theatre and the magnificent West Yorkshire Playhouse.

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On Saturday evening the West Yorkshire Playhouse presents a new adaptation of Victor Hugo's *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, one of the most exciting and moving love stories of all time.

We've arranged a walk along Leeds waterfront on Saturday morning, to see the docks, the river and Calder Navigation and Tetley's Brewery Wharf. This new attraction celebrates the history of the English public house from the 14th century to the present.

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No Agencies

SECRETARY/ASSISTANT

Circa £17K

Recently appointed Managing Director (Europe) of major international newspaper urgently requires enthusiastic and capable secretary/assistant to be responsible for all aspects of office admin.

The ideal candidate will have 3-5 years minimum previous office experience, be well-organised, flexible and able to work on own initiative. WP skills essential. An additional European language would be an advantage.

Benefits include non-contrib pension, free health & travel insurance and company bonus plan.

Apply in confidence with full c.v. to:

David Jones, USA TODAY International Corp, 18 Wardour Street, London, W1V 3HG (TEL 071-734 3003)

NPC
NETWORK PERSONNEL CONSULTANCY LIMITED

2ND JOBBER SW1
£17,500 pa + O/Time + Bens
Prestigious Bank. Outstanding opp. A'Level & Sec College educ with gd PC skills incl W4W. Typ 55wpm. S/Hand an adv. 19-23 yrs.

DEP CHAIR'S PA SW1
£18,000 + Bank Bens
Int. Bank, W4W, spreadsheet, database & DTP exp req. Typ 60wpm. 25-35 yrs.

Call Lina Solmer on 071 329 0055 or fax 071 332 0243

AUDIO ASSISTANT FOR LEGAL DEPT.

International sporting organisation based in modern Knightsbridge offices seeks bright, efficient young audio-typist, proficient in Word 6. Typing 60-80 wpm. Legal experience and working knowledge of Lotus & Windows an advantage. Salary negotiable. Excellent opportunity for the right person.

Applications in writing with CV, to Ms P Whitaker, 8 Princess Gate, London, SW7 1QJ. No agencies.

Urgent!!

The Summer rush has started two months early and we urgently need you to join our established and loyal team of temps, who enjoy regular, well-paid and interesting assignments in central London.

In return for your flexible attitude and excellent skills, we guarantee an efficient and friendly service, together with the following minimum rates:

Director's PA
£9.00 ph minimum
PA/Secretary
£8.50 ph minimum

Please call us now!
Liz, Lara and Natalie
West End 071 437 6032
Tina, Victoria and Wendy
City 071 377 9919

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

City Livery Company

moving at the end of April to new offices in the City (off Cheapside requires:-

Secretary/Administrative Assistant

(Full time)

To join a small team administering the charitable, social and financial activities of the Company. Excellent WP skills (WPS.1), a high standard of English and numeracy and a flexible attitude required. Experience in an institutional, charitable or professional office an advantage.

Part-time Bookkeeper

(7 hours per week)

Experience to Trial Balance of manual cash books and Pegasus Nominal Ledger.

Hand written letter of application with c.v. to:-

The Clerk,
The Worshipful Company of Weavers,
1 The Sanctuary, Westminster,
SW1P 3JT

ASSISTANT/PA

£18,000 + banking benefits

GRADUATE *appointments*

Our client, a leading global investment and securities house is actively recruiting a senior level assistant for one of their executives.

We are seeking a well presented and highly organised individual with an eye for detail who possesses excellent written & oral communication skills. The candidate needs to be confident & intelligent, with the ability to use their initiative & handle pressure & difficult situations.

Commitment & a strong character are essential qualities along with the desire to perform consistently to very high standards.

Telephone 071-379 0333

For a detailed discussion, contact Sharon Leask on 071 379 0333

Support and Suggest £19,000 Package

Senior Director of expanding Investment Bank in Tower Hill seeks highly efficient P.A. to support his every move. Suggest ideas for improving and setting up new systems within the office, organise meetings, co-ordinate his busy travel schedules and liaise with their diverse subsidiary companies. Typing 60+ wpm, shorthand and a good knowledge of Word for Windows are essential. If you have exceptional co-ordination skills, a flexible approach, and enjoy a fast-moving environment, please call Caroline Tyers at Hobstones on 071 377 9919.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

CITYWORD
6 Long Lane
London EC1A 9HA

Shorthand Banking Typing Legal

We're Loaded...

...with high-quality, well-paid, temporary and permanent City jobs. We are looking for people with the right attitude, skills and personal presentation to fill them.

For a limited period and at our discretion we are providing free formal classroom training, on the latest office software products, to people who meet our criteria.

So if you have a solid secretarial background, a professional attitude to your work and a real desire to get ahead, call - Angie Crouch on

071-600 8391

Malcolm Hollis

Senior Secretary

Are you interested in an opportunity to further your career in a progressive professional environment, where you will be provided with the scope to develop your skills and your experience?

Having recently advertised and filled a similar position, we now need another individual who is self motivated and adaptable to a constantly changing work load, with the ability to liaise with clients and who has a good telephone manner.

If you meet these requirements and feel that you have the right qualities to offer, we will provide a remuneration package to match as well as exciting career opportunities. Please write in confidence to Mr R. Evans enclosing a detailed curriculum vitae.

CHARTERED SURVEYORS
& BUILDING SURVEYING CONSULTANTS
9 Brooks Court, Cringle Street, London SW8 5BX

DTP Whizz Kid

to £20,000 plus benefits

Large International Insurance Company based in the City requires a highly computer literate secretary to work as part of a team with the General Manager and two Directors. Using your initiative to research your own projects, you will become completely involved in competitor analysis, turnover and presentations, as well as providing secretarial assistance in the form of travel, expenses and itineraries. You will be competent in Powerpoint graphics and Microsoft Word for Windows and a spreadsheet package. Skills: audio/60wpm. Age: 23-33. Experience: open. For an immediate interview please call Claire Ashley on 071 377 8827.

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

New Recruit!

£12,000
Age 19-24

Two superb openings have arisen for bright 'A' level secretaries to get their first job with this well known U.S. recruitment company in Covent Garden. Working for a lively team of four consultants you will assist in all areas of recruitment. In return for good promotional prospects and generous bonuses, you will need an immaculate appearance and confident manner to suit this front line sales environment. 50 wpm essential. Please call Kate Marsh on 071 437 6032.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

A Job to Treasure

£19,000 + bens

This well known Int'l PLC, based in smart West End Offices, offers a fabulous opportunity in their highly respected Treasury division. Working on a one to one basis for the Group Treasurer you will deal with travel itineraries, diary management and provide sound secretarial support (80/60/audio/wp). You need to be a team player, used to confidential work and have either Treasury or finance related experience. Age: 26-40. Please call Fiona on 071 437 6032.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

INVOLVEMENT & PROGRESSION

2ND JOBBER - £15 -17K

This young and dynamic city based company require a bright proactive secretary to work within their syndicate team. An involving role that would suit an intelligent young secretary wanting a challenge and progression into the market. The ability to learn quickly is essential. Daily tasks include organising meetings, telephone liaison and general administrational duties.

If you are computer literate and have skills of 50 wpm typing, please call us on 071 726 8491 or alternatively fax your CV on 071 606 9976.

Angela Mortimer

TELEVISION - FILMS PUBLISHING - PR - MUSIC

Time for a change? If you have good secretarial skills and thrive in a creative atmosphere we have the best selection of temporary & permanent vacancies in town. Whether you are a senior PA or a College Leaver - looking for a career move or a few days temping call us today.

JUDY FISHER *ASSOCIATES*
071-437 2277
Recruitment Consultants

THE TIMES PROFESSIONAL SECRETARY OF THE YEAR AWARDS 1994

This prestigious competition is now open to all career secretaries and PAs, both male and female. Now in its third year, the competition is seeking excellence, total professionalism, commitment and integrity in the workplace.

THE LONDON SECRETARY & OFFICE MANAGEMENT SHOW

The awards are organised in conjunction with the London Secretary and Office Management Show, to be held at the Barbican from April 19 - 21.

Entries must be on an official entry form, obtained only from the Show organisers' telephone hotline: 071-233 8068.

Employers are also warmly invited to request entry forms for their staff. The forms include a section to be completed in endorsement of an individual's entry.

A superb prize package is available to the winners. It includes two Lufthansa business class flights to anywhere in Europe, two Mercury One-2-One handsets, clothes from Wallis, Fiorelli accessories, a course from the Industrial Society, PC World starter packs and much more. Employers endorsing entries will be entered in a draw for prizes including a day at a racehorse trainers' yard from the Market Racing Agency and lunch or dinner at London's much-praised Canal Brasserie.

Mercury one2one — Lufthansa — PC WORLD — FIORELLI — Wallis

Organised in conjunction with The Industrial Society

CREME DE LA CREME

ROOM AT THE TOP

EXECUTIVE PA £25,000 + OT

A superb opportunity for a proactive and experienced PA to support and advise the entrepreneurial Chairman of a property development company. You'll be responsible for the co-ordination of his overseas projects, together with the day-to-day running of the office – at all times ensuring that the Chairman is fully informed. Working alongside another PA, this is a very demanding and involving role which will require a great deal of innovation and hard work.

You must have excellent secretarial and organisational skills, together with the ability to liaise with people at all levels. A calm and committed approach to your work is prerequisite. Contact Angela Mortimer (Rec Cons) on: ***071 726 8491***

Angela Mortimer

WA £20,000 Pkg.

"CITY" PA IN SW1 !

An organised, bright and cheerful Secretary is required by two friendly and dynamic Senior Managers who are going places. Working in this prestigious Investment Bank in SW1 you will get all the benefits associated with the City without the commute! You will need plenty of initiative and drive as you will always be one step ahead of your bosses, coordinating their hectic diaries and interfacing with the people they manage. Confidential work, ad hoc projects and supervision of the other secretaries in the department are all in a day's work so if you have plenty of get up and go, a solid CV, Word for Windows and are happy to work some paid overtime then call Sarah Williams now on 071 225 1888.

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

WA c.£17,000

PA TO MD - EC4

A bright confident and capable secretary is required to work for two delightful young executives (the MD and a Director), they are excellent delegators who will totally involve you. In addition to the usual secretarial back-up you will be coordinating projects and their busy schedules. You must be professional, proactive and flexible with an easygoing, calm personality able to produce work to a high standard in a relaxed and informal atmosphere where you will feel part of a close knit team. If you are aged between 24-34 have good secretarial skills and would enjoy a "quality of life job" then call Claire Hawker now on 071 225 1888.

VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

IT Assistant

c£18,000 + Bens

Expanding Telecommunications Company needs an assertive and persuasive individual to work as part of the IT division. Reporting directly to the IT Manager, you will be responsible for the control and management of project specifications and for ensuring smooth administration during PC changeovers. You will have an advanced knowledge of Microsoft Word for Windows, spreadsheets and Graphics/DTP, ideally gained within a dynamic and pressurised environment. Age: 22-30yrs. Candidates should be educated to at least A'level calibre. Please telephone Charlotte Palling on 071 377 2827 for further information.

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

GROSVENOR

TV – PRODUCTION SECRETARY
£15,000

Young, enthusiastic secretary for a busy team working on a popular light entertainment programme. Preferred age 20-27, 60+ wpm typing, flexible approach & plenty of initiative.

PUBLISHING
£14,500

International publishing company is looking for a PA. Applicants need 80 wpm shorthand, 50 wpm typing, administrative skills & approx 2 year's previous work experience (not necessarily in publishing)

GROSVENOR BUREAU TEL: 071 499 6566 — RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

GROSVENOR

CHAIRMAN'S PA
£18,000+

Friendly, family run firm in Holland Park is looking for an organised & cheerful PA with good secretarial skills (typing 50+ wpm & some shorthand). Pref age: 27 - 37.

WEST END GALLERY
C£17,000

Engaging boss seeks efficient PA to join a small team. Good WP, shorthand preferred & working knowledge of French useful. Pref age: 30's.

GROSVENOR BUREAU TEL: 071 499 6566 — RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PA SEC - RUN THE OFFICE
£18,000

Use your excellent secretarial, DTP and organisational skills to provide support to a Director and ensure the smooth running of the office. Preparing presentations, handling recruitment and dealing with clients.

SURVEYING SECRETARY
£16,000

Young, lively Equity Partner urgently requires Audio Secretary. Lots of client contact, supervising junior staff, typing speeds 60wpm using WP 5.1. Fabulous working environment; benefits include 5 weeks holidays.

PORTMAN
west end 071 287 0220
RECRUITMENT SERVICES

THE TIMES
HIGHER
EDUCATION SUPPLEMENT

SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE EDITOR
SALARY COMMENSURATE WITH POSITION
HOURS; 9.30 am - 5.30 pm

We are looking for a Secretary/Personal Assistant, preferably a graduate, with previous experience at senior level who has excellent secretarial skills (100 wpm shorthand, 60wpm typing, Wordperfect for Windows).

Varied work day where you will be involved in office administration/management, arranging travel, diary management and numerous other administrative duties.

The key attributes for this position are: good organisational and communication skills, a professional and flexible approach together with evidence of initiative and enthusiasm.

Applications in writing enclosing CV together with daytime telephone number to Brenda Hemmings, Recruitment Manager, News International Newspapers Limited, PO Box 481, Virginia Street, London E1 9XD.

SHORTHAND, SHORTHAND, SHORTHAND

SW1, SW3, SW6, £16-19,000

Where are you? You can't *all* have lost your outlines! If you have at least 90wpm shorthand, we have 3 fascinating career opportunities in travel, design, and property for 3 equally special secretaries with 'A' levels, excellent written English, poise and charm. Age 23-35.

JIGSAW

TOP TEMPS TOP RATES
To £10 Per Hour

Word for Windows, WordPerfect 5.1, MS Word on AppleMac and IBM, Aster*x, Wang WP Plus, Multimate, Wordstar, Lotus, Excel.
Quality assignments, all companies, all areas, college leavers to top P.A.'s with immediate start.
INTERESTED? Good secretarial skills and experience will ensure you are treated with the respect you deserve. Age 18-35.
Call us now on 071 726 8491

Angela Mortimer
SECRETARIAL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANCY

DON'T BE LEFT BEHIND IN THE SLOW LANE

If you possess a professional approach, flair and top secretarial skills including Word for Windows, WordPerfect, AppleMac, shorthand or even a second language, come and join our fast moving and successful team of temporary and permanent Secretaries throughout London.

Mandarin-speaking Secretaries required, with one year's minimum working experience. Proactive and hardworking, you will need to have excellent secretarial skills and a positive attitude to be an applicant for this unique opportunity based in the City.

To apply for the above and many, many other exciting career opportunities contact Knightsbridge Secretaries (Rec Cons) on

071 235 8427

KNIGHTSBRIDGE SECRETARIES

PA/SENIOR SECRETARY

Highly proficient Executive Secretary is sought by a Senior Partner in the London office of an international law firm.

The position requires excellent communication and organisational skills and the ability to work to deadlines under pressure. Shorthand and a knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1 is essential. Duties will include general administration and extensive liaison with clients. A flexible attitude towards overtime and, at times, unsociable hours is vital.

Please reply in writing to:
Office Administrator
Witmer, Cutler & Pickering
4 Carlton Gardens, London SW1Y 5AA

TOP RATES FOR TEMPS

Plus holiday bonus and paid bank holidays. We urgently need PA's, secretaries and receptionists for the exciting world of:

Film, Video & Design Advertising and PR

The Packages our clients require are:
* Word for Windows
* Wordperfect 5.1
* Wordperfect for Windows
* Excel/Lotus 123
* Harvard Graphics

Contact Emma on 071 499 8070

Elizabeth Hunt
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

TWO PROJECT CO-ORDINATORS
£15,500

GRADUATE appointments

This successful city-based Management Consultancy needs two additional members to join their project team. They require graduates with 2 years work experience and secretarial skills (50 wpm min) ideally gained within a similar environment. Applications, Admin Promotion and Excel would be a definite advantage.

Above all the ability to prioritise and maintain a high level of professionalism is required as the environment is fast moving and requires team players with lots of energy and ambition.

Please apply by calling Yolande or Andrew on four years co on 071 379 0113

Telephone applications only

SECRETARY
c£16,000 pa.

Experienced Secretary with admin skills required for publisher to cover maternity leave absence. Good WP and basic accounts skills.

Enquiries to Judith Holmes 071-735 9141 ext. 302 (PM only) by 25th March 1994.

Information Management Group

NHS Centre for Coding and Classification

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR

This national Centre based in Loughborough requires a highly dedicated Personal Assistant to manage the Director's office and lead a small support team. Applicants should have extensive PA experience and be capable of communicating effectively at all levels, up to ministerial.

This is an exciting and key management position for which you must be exceptionally well-organised and flexible, and be able to demonstrate a professional and confident approach to the varied and often very heavy workload.

Additional personal qualities should include a strong commitment, a high level of motivation, and good interpersonal skills. Fast and accurate wordprocessing (preferably WordPerfect 5.2 for Windows) and shorthand (80 wpm) are also essential, as is a current UK driving licence.

For this high level post, a generous salary, based on the nationally-agreed NHS Senior Managers' rates of pay, will be available.

Applications must be received by Friday 25 March.

Please send a handwritten letter of application, together with a current CV, to The Personnel Manager, NHS Centre for Coding and Classification, Woodgate, Loughborough, Leicestershire LE11 2TG.

The centre aims to be an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

NHS Management Executive

PA/ADMINISTRATOR
To Principal Consultant

in small but busy research consultancy based in Holborn. 4 days per week. £15,000 p.a. + bens.

Send CV's and application to:
Nicky Westphal
Solon Consultants
25 Bedford Row
London WC1R 4HE
Tel: 071 242 2261 Fax: 071 404 0452

MERIDIAN

PA/ADMINISTRATOR to £22,000 p.a.
Dynamic US Chief Executive needs a PA (28-38) with experience at board level to run the small London office of a large international plc. Call Barbara Sherwin.

US BANKING £16,500 + bank bens
Join one of the friendliest teams in the city! Provide sec & admin support (s/h helpful), with client contact and liaison at senior level. Age: 24-34. Call Alex Butterworth.

071 255 1555
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

JOHN MURRAY, independent book publishers, need a mature, experienced and efficient secretary to work within a busy editorial department. Excellent organisational skills, an ability to work speedily and to deadlines, and WP (WordPerfect) skills will be needed to cope with this demanding but rewarding job. Please write with full CV and salary details to:
Gail Pickin, Managing Editor, John Murray (Publishers) Ltd, 50 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BD.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Well organised secretary required by small friendly PR agency (SW1). Primarily working for MD, ability to meet deadlines and knowledge of WP5.1 and audio skills an advantage. Must enjoy working as part of a team.

For further information, please call: 071 824 8681 and speak to Jacqui.

Judy Farquharson Ltd.

47 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HA
Tel: 071-493 8824 Fax: 071-493 7161

PR CONSULTANCY need experienced secretary to ensure smooth running of busy SW6 office & act as PA to MD. Typing 50+, W4W, age flex. £13-15,000.

CITY SECRETARY to work for small team in the North American Department of successful insurance brokers. Should be self-motivated & able eventually to work with minimal supervision. Excellent typing, audio & good knowledge of W4W. Age mid-20s pref. c£15,000.

We always need TEMPS with excellent secretarial skills!

JFL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

KNIGHTSBRIDGE ESTATE AGENTS SECRETARY/ASSISTANT

Lively person required for smart, busy office. Good WP and administration skills. Estate Agency experience preferred but not essential.

Call Debra Stroud on 071 235 8090 or send CV to De Groot Collis, 31 Lowndes Street, London SW1X 9HX (Fax 071 245 9606).

No agencies please.

TEMP TO PERM P.A
c£17,000 p.a.

Exp 1-1 PA req for friendly City Co. You must have 80+wpm sh, 60+wpm typ, be numerate and able to work on your own initiative. Immediate start.

Please call Wendy Prangnell on 071-240 4538.
La Creme Consultants.

PR COMPANY, WC2
£15,000 neg. + bonus

Our client seeks an assistant to their Admin Manager. *Essential criteria:* good education, social and presentation skills; adv. knowledge of WordPerfect 5.1 and speed 50wpm+. Age 20-23.

Please fax your CV or telephone Jan Teager
Fax. 081 847 5288 Tel. 081 568 5516
JANETTE TEAGER & ASSOCIATES
Human Resource Management Consultants

SECRETARY IN INT'L CONSULTANCY
£17,000 + excellent benefits

Working for legal department use your excellent secretarial skills in typing legal documents, organising diary/travel, and performing general administrative tasks. You will be aged 25-33, have 2 years solid sec experience & excellent presentation skills. Typing 60wpm copy & audio. W Windows essential.

Call BOYCE AGENCY 071 287 6069.

CLIENT CARE
£14,000

An upmarket receptionist is required in SW1. Able to deal with top people, keep your poise under pressure and genuinely welcome people into your space.

Anderson Bilingual 081 789 9303.

PA to Senior Partner (E.C.1)

Excellent Salary and Benefits

Progressive firm of Chartered Accountants and Corporate Finance Advisers require a competent and responsible PA for Senior Partner. Good organisational skills, together with the ability to use initiative and work efficiently within a team. Age: early 20's+. Knowledge of Lotus Ami Pro/Windows preferable. Send covering letter and CV to:
Kingswood
Kingswood House
No. 1 Clerkenwell Green
London EC1R 0DE

SECRETARY IN INVESTMENT BANKING £17,500 + BENS

Working in Corporate Relations Dept. for Special Events Organisers of West End Investment Bank, this is an admin/sec role with a bias towards assisting in setting up of events for internal and external clients. You will have 3 years sec exp, preferably within Banking. Age 25+. Typing 60wpm. Conversational French & Shorthand an advantage.

Call BOYCE AGENCY 071 287 6060.

DUNCAN ALLEN

We require a mature Secretary with good office skills for our high profile office at Tower Bridge dealing with Residential Sales & Lettings.
Knowledge and experience of agency an advantage. Must be capable of dealing with clients at all levels. Salary negotiable.

Tel Kim on 071 407 2790.

CUSTOMER SERVICES CO-ORDINATOR
COMPUTER COMPANY, WEST ENDSALARY TO £16,000

Experienced and well organised computer literate administrator, with outgoing personality, needed to co-ordinate customer support queries. Responsibilities include receiving and logging calls, maintaining good client relationships at all times, and offering administrative support to the Division. Candidates with experience of Word for Windows, Lotus 1-2-3 and databases are preferred, ideally educated to 'A' level standard.

Please send CVs to Debbie Robinson, Office Manager, Independent Computer Solutions Ltd (ICOS), 36-38 Carnaby Street, London W1V 1PD. Tel:071 494 0010.

STRICTLY NO AGENCIES

Spring Ahead!
Up to £10ph

We are looking for flexible, professional temps to join our extremely busy temporary team which is always in demand. It's getting busier all the time, so if you are available to temp we need you now!

We pay excellent hourly rates for your skills and experience. We also give you interesting, varied assignments where your contribution is really appreciated.

Please ring Sally or Clare now to join the team - it's a step in the right direction!

071-434 4512

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SECRETARY/PERSONAL ASSISTANT

We need an intelligent & lively secretary to run all our day to day company affairs, & to help organise our current developments with the two directors. Confidence & initiative essential.

Call Michelle 071 602 9227

SAMSON PROPERTIES PLC

FASHION EXHIBITION ORGANISERS

Receptionist/Telephonist
£15,000 Age not/less 20's
Never be bored again!
You will be using your excellent 'people' & organisational skills to the full in return for a good salary & slot of fun. A developed sense of humour, immaculate presentation & solid rec/tel experience required.

Call Caroline on 081 878 8394 (AWD Rec Cons).

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Are absolutely vital for this exciting secretarial position. It's a newly created role due to internal promotion and lots of scope is guaranteed. This young, go-ahead team are constantly liaising with clients and helping them to decide where best to invest. You will be a real team player with an interest in people and PR, lots of confidence and a sense of humour. Rusty shorthand preferred. Salary package £20,000 with a review after 6 months. If you think you would enjoy a really interesting, responsible job with one of the top Investment Banks in the City, please call us now.

Tel: 071 377 5500 Fax: 071 377 5599.

CROSS SELECTION
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SECRETARIES
C£15,000 - £17,000 (21+) AAE

International advertising agency is looking to recruit two secretaries with financial experience.

Applicants should have accurate typing together with Word for Windows, Lotus/Excel and Powerpoint experience. Suit persons who can work on their own initiative.

Applications in writing only please with CV stating which position you are applying for to:
Ms D Whitworth, Young & Rubicam Europe Ltd, Greater London House, Hampstead Road, London NW1 7QP.

LEARN NEW SKILLS AND REFRESH OLD ONES

Intensive or flexible courses in information technology and secretarial skills offered throughout the year.

St James's Secretarial College
Kensington, London SW5
071 373 3852

25% Tax Relief on all self-funded training.
Careers Advisory Service available.

STUDIES AND MEETINGS SECRETARY

Demanding and varied appointment at Independent Institute concerned with international affairs, defence and technology.

Sound administrative, secretarial and computer skills essential. Knowledge of Whitehall and the military desirable.

Please apply in writing with CV to P.A. to Director, Royal United Services Institute, Whitehall, London SW1A 2ET.

HAMMERSMITH HUMAN RESOURCE
PA. £16K

Assoc HR Director recruit Snr level staff. Sole responsibility for Health/Pens schemes. Outgoing personality, excellent skills (60wpm) ess.

Albany Appointments
071 493 8631

MASTERLOCK RECRUITMENT

PA TO ASSISTANT DIRECTOR 18.5K + bens

We have a senior PA's position available working for a perfect boss who is an excellent delegator! He is looking for an individual who will take on more of their own responsibility. You will need impeccable interpersonal skills as you will be liaising at all levels. If you have strong secretarial skills, numeracy and enjoy working in an improving environment.

Please call LISA at MASTERLOCK RECRUITMENT on 071 925 1718 or fax on 071 925 5164.

POWERPOINT TEMPS

We are currently recruiting temps with excellent skills on Powerpoint and Word for Windows for a major new client. We have immediate bookings for professional temps who are real team players to work for this fast-moving international company. We pay top hourly rates, so if you have the experience we need please ring Clare or Sally now on: 071-434 4512.

Crone Corkill
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

PERSONNEL c£18-20K

Organise busy schedule for Personnel Director of prestigious City Bank. Fast, accurate audio/copy speeds will ensure that you quickly clear the high volume of typing & move on to more interesting work. Liaise with senior level executives to organise meetings & sort out the daily personnel administration. Excellent benefits include pool & gym. Skills typ 85wpm+. Age 27+.

Call Jane Morgan on 071-256 6868

LOVE+TATE

P.A. to CHIEF EXEC
£17,000

Talented, professional person able to maintain high quality standards required by this major governing body. Ability to liaise at a Senior level, and follow through executive projects and decisions very important. Additionally must be capable of adapting to demanding situations.

Call Keystone (Rec Cons) on 071 637 6444.

TEMP WITH TATE

Join the Tate Temp Team and enjoy regular work, good rates and a fast, professional service. If you are an experienced secretary with 55wpm typing and good WP skills (cross training available) call Jane Connelly at Tate Appointments now on 071 408 0424.

Tate

THE TIMES

La Crème de la Crème also appears in the Appointments Supplement on Thursdays.

For further information please call the Crème team on 071 481 9994 or fax on 071 782 7828.

DON'T MISS IT!

EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT
£16K + COMMISSION UP TO 50% COVENT GARDEN

An exciting opportunity has arisen in a young expanding Recruitment Consultancy offering excellent career prospects. Candidates should have at least two years experience in Secretarial Recruitment and prefer to work with the minimum of supervision.

Telephone Barbara Lee on 071 240 2833 to arrange an interview or fax 071 497 3177

SPRING INTO ACTION
TO £10.00 P/H

With the holiday period fast approaching, our prestigious City and West End clients are recruiting professional, articulate temporaries for long and short term assignments. We have immediate positions for high-calibre Secretaries and Receptionists.

Please call Corrina Davidson-McKay or Fiona Barnett on 071-486 6951 or fax on 071-486 0378.

Zarak Hay Partnership

EXPERIENCED AUDIO SECRETARY

Small West End firm of Surveyors requires an audio secretary for two partners. Use of WP5.1 essential with fast and accurate copy and audio skills. Applicants must be well presented, with good sense of humour. Competitive salary, bonus.

CV: To Christine Cork, Latham French
9-10 Savile Row, LONDON W1X 1AF. Tel: 071 437 9333
(Strictly No Agencies).

PARTRIDGE FINE ARTS

require a receptionist with secretarial skills for Bond Street Antiques Gallery. Applicants must be well spoken and presentable. First class references essential.

Telephone: 071 629 0831 to arrange an interview.

PA/SECRETARY

required for Property Investment Company close to Putney Bridge Station. Good experience and first class references essential. Excellent salary

Please send CV to: Renaissance Construction Ltd., 184 New Kings Road, London SW6 4SW.

PRODUCTION COMPANY (ADS, TV, ID, & DESIGN)

Receptionist/Secretary
Age 20-24
£11,000 hrs 11am - 7 pm.
(45 wpm typing)

You'll be energetic, lively & confident to fulfil this extremely varied & busy role. Duties include meeting & greeting clients, lots of telephone work, organising meeting rooms, ordering office supplies & lots lots more. Call Caroline on 081 878 0394 (A.W.D. Rec Cons).

SECRETARY WITH A DIFFERENCE
£20-22,000 package + excellent benefits

Age mid/late 20's. Formal secretarial training & 80+ wpm typing essential, plus stable career history.
If you require a challenging & demanding position with variety, responsibility & involvement in a professional & social company.
Please call Julia or Caroline on 081 878 8394. (A.W.D. Rec Cons).

CREME DE LA CREME

OPPORTUNITIES THROUGHOUT EUROPE - 1994

Regus is the world's largest Business Centre Group offering prestigious office accommodation in major cities throughout Europe staffed with quality multilingual administrative support teams. We have the following opportunities across Europe, immediately and throughout 1994, including the U.K.

OFFICE MANAGERS

Managing one of our prestigious offices and a support team of up to six people. Responsible for all aspects of day to day operation with a high degree of autonomy. Excellent all round secretarial skills and leadership ability necessary.

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Assisting the Office Manager with day to day operations.

SECRETARIES

Excellent all round secretarial skills.

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Responsible for sales of offices in our centres.

You must be multilingual (for positions outside UK) with a strong commitment to quality and customer service, and have a flexible approach to your work.

Post or Fax your C.V. to:
Hilary Dellar, Regus Management Ltd.,
Bessenveldstraat 25, 1831 Diegem,
Belgium.
Tel: +32 2 716 4700 Fax: +32 2 716 4800

Regus

Float Secretaries required

for our major client the

European Bank for Reconstruction & Development

We are now recruiting temporary secretaries with City experience to join our busy float team. Word for Windows knowledge is preferred; shorthand and language skills also useful.

If you have the required wordprocessing knowledge, and are looking for work within a challenging international environment, supported by an attractive pay and benefits package, please call Claire Baker immediately.

071 488 2880
78 Fenchurch Street EC3

MANPOWER
You can measure the difference

Manpower Opportunities

INTERNATIONAL ART c£16k
A superb opportunity to use your fluent Spanish and/or French liaising with VIP clients worldwide. Working at Director level in this high profile department including your excellent skills required to meet the shorthand will be required to meet the daily challenges. Call Sophia Kelsick at Tate Appointments on 071 408 0424
Tate

PRACTICE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
for consultant dental practice (periodontics) W.1. A stimulating position, ideal for co-dental nurse or hygienist, with lots of responsibility, but help & back-up from an enthusiastic team. You should be 25-plus, reasonably computer-literate, with experience in communicating with patients & basic book-keeping.
Telephone 071 580 5853 (day), 081 340 5067 (evening) or fax CV to 081 341 1744.

THE RITZ
TOP PA £18,000 BRIGHTON
Assist the flamboyant & successful Chief Executive of this computing consultancy in all aspects of his business. Provide top PA duties & assist in the organising of conferences & meetings. First class presentation for liaison with Directors & Clients in the Chief Executive's absence. 100wpm with good communication & social skills.
CONTACT: MARK LEWIN ON 071-629 4343
RITZ RECRUITMENT

PA/SECRETARY KENSINGTON c.£14,000
Working for two directors of marketing and communications consultancy; young, dynamic and innovative. Willing to become involved, work well under pressure, manage office. Must have Wordperfect 6.1, Windows and database experience. Non smoker.
Call Tim on 071 938 4045.

TEMP WORD 4 WINDOWS £8.00 p.h
A long term booking has arisen for a major education dept in this training section. Seeking a dedicated, well organised person, able to cope with a varied and challenging role.
Call Keystone (Rec Cons) 071 837 8444

FIRST CREME

FIRST STEP £12,000 + bens + rev
A Dynamic Co. with fab. offices in the heart of Covent Gdn have openings for "A" level/grad. educated secs. You are bubbly, well spoken, cheerful, flexible, and immaculately presented. You have formal sec. training with 45wpm accurate typing. This progressive co. will reward your hardwork, (your 1st promotion/salary review could be within 3 months).
Call Claire on 071 225 1588. VWA Rec. Cons.

PROPERTY COMPANY
Cheerful secretary with energy and initiative needed to join our friendly Fulham Office. 'A' Level education preferred. Good skills essential. Salary negotiable.
Please call Jane Hewitt 071 381 4998
(No Agencies)

FASHION Exhibition organisers seek flexible & confident office mr. Your duties include relief reception, making teas & coffees, helping with travel arrangements & generally assisting in the running of this hectic & fun office. Basic keyboard skills an advantage. Age 16+ £10-11,000. Call Caroline on 081 878 0394 (AWD Rec Cons)

COLLEGE TO CAREER

THE RITZ
CAREER START £10-11,000 + BENS
Outstanding career opportunity for an enthusiastic college leaver to join the executive suite of this leading software services Co. Excellent prospects are guaranteed as you assist an elite team of senior PA's within a varied and involving role. Immaculate presentation, 50 wpm SH/40 wpm typing essential.
Call Jane Ahern on 071-629 4343
RITZ RECRUITMENT

PUT yr skills into action. 1st jobbers required with or without s/h (min typ 45wpm) to work in prestigious Westminster posts. Call Kingsbridge Norton Strange Rec 071 222 8071.

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Personnel with German
£24,000 package

Are you one of life's born organisers, prepared to balance a demanding job with your already-active social life? Are you a graduate secretary, with good computer skills and fluent German? We are recruiting for the Personnel Dept of a major City institution whose name is synonymous with success and dynamism. Supporting a busy executive who loves to delegate, your job will be largely administrative, involving you in day-to-day issues of Human Resources. Please call Sabina Stewart on 071 434 4512 for an immediate interview.

Crone Corkill Multilingual

LANGUAGE MATTERS

FRENCH FIRST CAREER
Start a career in banking as French spk sec to small team in corporate finance. Excl training ground in a young & informal environ'. English mother-tongue ess. SH pref with gd sec quals ess. 21+. £12-13,500 + excl bank bens.

GERMAN CONTRACTS
2 posts for experienced PA/Secs with good German to cover for maternity leave. English mother-tongue with Director level exp ess & SH pref. Min 6 month contracts, poss perm, 27-35. Start asap. £16-20,000 pro rata + bens.

GERMAN/SPANISH PA
Leading intl co urgently seeks a senior level PA with fluent German and Spanish (or French) for intl liaison. High profile job req gd org skills. Excl working environment. £17,000 + large co bens.

Tel: 071 930 1811, Fax 071 925 0056
Carrara House, 20 Embankment Pl, London, WC2N 6NN

REGAN & DEAN + ADLAND
EVENT MANAGEMENT COMPANY BI-LINGUAL SECRETARIES
Dynamic account team within a leading international company need professional and highly organised young secretaries who are fluent in one or more European language. At least 1 year's relevant secretarial experience is essential along with excellent presentation and plenty of style. There's genuine scope to attend and troubleshoot at major international events. Age 21-24. Excellent WP skills. £14,000.
Regan & Dean + Adland Recruitment
63 South Molton Street W1Y 1HE. Tel: 071-408 3244.

GERMAN to personnel? Exlnt PA/Sec with mother tongue level Engl for busy exec of well known bank. Excellent communication and presentation skills. To £17k + bank plan + overtime pay. Multilingual services rec cons 071 836 3794.

MULTI-LINGUAL OPPORTUNITIES

FRANKFURT Int'l property developers seeks German m/t PA/Sec, age 25-30 with excellent English & sec skills. Sal 50000DM x 13.

LONDON Financial services co requires French m/t Sec, age c22 with very good Eng & sec skills. Suit first jobber. Sal c£13K

BRUSSELS Trilingual Eng m/t Snr PA (very gd French & gd German) wanted with sec exp & good skills. Eng s/h pref. A varied, hectic role with Int'l liaison & some travel. Generous package incl tax free salary.

LONDON 071 584 6446 PARIS 44 63 02 57

Sheila Burgess
International Recruitment Consultants

PERSONNEL & GERMAN
Prestigious City institution seeks a well-presented, outgoing Sec/Asst with very good German to join their expanding personnel team. Commitment, diplomacy, numeracy, strong communication skills and initiative are key. Scope for advancement. Age 25-32. 60wpm/W4W/Excel. c£22K plus incl mortgage sub.
Call 071 584 6446
Sheila Burgess
International Recruitment Consultants

SECRETARY WITH GERMAN IN BANKING £14,000 + BENS
Bright 2nd jobber with good working German and typing skills 55wpm, (Word for Windows exp pref) is sought to join Int'l German Bank. 6 months sec exp min. Age 21-24 pref.
BOYCE BILINGUAL 071 287 6060.

The Language Business
COSMETICS/FRAGRANCES FLUENT GERMAN c£17,500
MD of this International Cosmetics & Fragrances group is seeking a German speaking PA (Eng to mt std + French an adv). Extremely varied responsibilities, including organising & attending sales conferences, rendering sales figures, liaison with European & US offices & with the public. Good WP/spdsh/meeting ability ess.
5 Denmark Street, London WC2H 8LP
Tel: 071-379 3166 Fax: 071-379 0824

BILINGUAL BANKING!
We currently are recruiting on behalf of intl finance co's who require French or German or Spanish Sec/PA with at least 2 yrs proven exp. These are challenging roles for proactive secs who wish to establish careers in banking. Eng SH ess for French & Spanish posts. Age 24-37. £16,500 - 20,000 + bank bens.
The Language Specialists Morrow Emp Agy
Tel: 071 499 3939
Fax: 071 409 2859

£21,000. French sound to draft basic correspondence as Secretary to the MD of an investment firm in Mayfair. As well as English of mother tongue standard, this French man needs 45wpm + typing and someone happy to work in a small company - currently 5 but growing. Call 071 439 7001 - Secretaries Plus - rec cons.

DANISH Very bilingual sec, ideally with legal exp for part or partner level. Travel both ways. To £20K. Multilingual services rec cons 071 836 3794.

DUTCH spkg clerk to Int'l bank training given age to 27 sal to 12K. Link Appts 071 408 2180.

FRENCH - good enough to translate both ways? Dream job for a bilingual secretary, working for dynamic, high-flying executive of international property company with amazing offices in SW1. English/shorthand a plus WP skills essential, age 25-40. Salary c. £18,000 + sports club membership. Please call Sabina on 071 434 4512. Crone Corkill Multilingual Rec Cons.

FRENCH speaking PA/Sec c£16,000 sought to assist at Director level of large City Corporation. Busy & challenging role requiring sec communication & organisational skills. Fluent French, 90/50 wpm, Audio + WP. Tel: The Language Business 071 379 3189 (Rec Cons).

FRENCH/Italian trilling involved admin/sales/client liaison role for prof with 'go ahead'. Age 23-35. Link Appts 071 408 2180.

SUPER SECRETARIES

USE YOUR BRAIN!
Enjoy problem solving through analysis and research? As secretary/assistant to the director of these City headhunters you will be prized for more than your secretarial skills. 'A' level education + audio and ideally Word for Windows required. Age 23-30, £16,500.
Call 071 377 2666
SECRETARIES PLUS

SAVILLS
SECRETARY
for estate agents in Wapping.
Bright young person required for varied role. Audio & fast accurate typing. Pro'al manner and ability/exp to deal with enquiries. Good WP and computer literacy pref. Scope to develop the role substantially. Salary neg.
Send c.v. to Johanna Proudlove
80 Wapping High Street, London E1 9NE

AMBITIOUS Team Leader c£17k + ben. bene. Internationally famous organisation need an up-front, pro-active, polished young secretary to assist dynamic team with all areas of admin. Organise extensive travel itineraries, co-ordinate hectic diaries, prepare proposals & manage expenses. Ideally sec 2nd/3rd jobber with sec exp within a large Co. Fast WP skills (60+wpm). A'level ed. Age 23-28. Lots of benefits inc. use of gym, rest. bonus & mortgage subsidy. Royds Raphael Rec 071 287 2080.

ARTS - Superb job for a young secretary (Aged 19-24) with 6-12 months experience to work at this very well known Arts Establishment in the West-end. You will be working in a team dealing with their international trustees and benefactors, organising and minuting meetings, co-ordinating social events and giving full secretarial support to their delightful Director. Excellent grammar, diplomacy and good tel manner essential in addition to min 3 O'levels. 50 wpm typing and a genuine interest in Art. Salary to £12,900. Please call Kirty on 071-437-6032 Hobstones Rec Cons.

AUDIO Secretary required for busy West End Chartered Surveyors. 60wpm min. Also required, part-time audio typist 2pm-6pm. CVs to: Allyson Smith, Alexander Reece Thomson, 11 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7PB.

AUDIO Sec for High Profile West End Property Group. £14,000 - £16,000. Crone Garden Bureau 071 495 8822.

CALM person needed for pressured secretarial job. Good typing, audio and s/h + Word excel ess. £17,500 + mort subs + exc benefits. City Word Rec Cons 071 600 8391.

CONFIDENT Secretary. £16k with WP 5.1 & good Shorthand skills (100/60) for City Law Firm. Legal exp not ess. Age 25+. 071 234 9697, Rec Cons.

c£14,000 Media Consultancy in W1 seek sec to work for two consultants in this busy, young, fun, small co. Loads of involvement. Good typing 50 wpm. Exc. speech and pres. Age 21-25. Anderson Hoare (rec cons) 071 824 8821.

c£20,000 (Negotiable) + Med + Pens + LA + 5 wks hols. There is no hierarchy or structure to this Old St company, so don't think you'll be walking through the doors there as their shoulder padded PA. You will be Office Manager/PA. & you will be senior, but your job title really doesn't matter. This Company is expanding rapidly & prospects for everyone is fantastic, so what matters here is that you have rolls (hair sleeves up) & works as hard as they can. It's 30+ typing (40 wpm) the rest admin & there's plenty of it! So if you're extremely down to earth, 28-35, & want to be rewarded for your efforts, call Maine-Tucker. 071 734 7341.

COVENT GARDEN is 7 mins walk from their sumptuous offices. Opportunity to develop skills and progress are yours if you have 60 wpm typing/audio/WP 5.1 and would relish working in a social team. £14,000 19-27 max. Call 071-377 6777. Middleton Jeffers Recruitment Ltd

c£16,000 SW1 Prop. Co. requires P.A. to become fully involved working for a Senior Dev. Partner. You will also be responsible for the co's Advertising and Country Assistance. Prop. exp. pref. Typing 60 wpm. s/h 100 wpm a must. Good speech and pres. Age 25-35. Anderson Hoare (rec cons) 071 824 8821.

GREEK SHIPPING CO. City based needs bright, numerate well spoken Secretary with Latin to join small but beautiful thriving Worldwide operation £14-15,000. Call 071 377 6777. Middleton Jeffers Recruitment Ltd.

SUPER SECRETARIES

SHORTHAND SECRETARY
required for busy property development company, centrally located. Penthouse office suite. Excellent shorthand (100 wpm) & fax accurate typing (65 wpm) are essential together with a good telephone manner & general office skills. Salary: £18,000 p.a. + free car parking & subsidised lunch.
For further information call Ruth Green on 071 278 4868
Strictly no agencies

SECRETARY WEST END ANTIQUE DEALERS
Small friendly office
WP essential & S/hand
Good Admin. Skills
Languages an advantage
Tel: Mr Woodham-Smith 071 629 2444

A banking/"City"/financial background is preferred for a variety of positions with this major bank. Package of £20,000 + comprises salaries of around £16,000 + mortgage subsidy, profit share and subsidised lunches. You are 28-30, a team player and have 60+wpm typing and ideally Windows exp. Call 071 439 7001. Secretaries Plus - rec cons.

ADMIN + Organising PA/Sec. £16,500 + Exc bens. Good audio. WP5.1 + organising exp ess. Age 23-33. Top Int'l co. Next Age 071 287 3664.

ADVERTISING - £18,000 package. Assist two busy sales executives within this international environment. You will be fully involved with marketing, PR and Corporate Events. Ideal age 23-30 yrs. MS Word on Apple Mac. 80 wpm shorthand. Excellent prospects. Telephone 071 628 9529 - Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants.

ADV Secretary for Top W1 Ad Agency. 80SH/60TYP. 22+. Salary c£14,000. Call Changes Rec Cons 071 491 1253.

AMAZING Temp to Perm opportunity has arisen for an Executive Assistant/Secretary for a huge worldwide consultancy, based in SW1. Salary to £17k + exc bens. Ideally you will be aged between 22 and 29 years, with a minimum of 4 years solid secretarial experience behind you, demonstrating your organisational and communication abilities together with your skill at prioritising. You will also need excellent knowledge of Microsoft Word on Apple Ideally with Powerpoint, MacDraw and Excel. This is a very exciting role, working with one other to ensure the running of this very busy Chief Executive's Office. If you know you can do it, call Natalie/Liz on 071 437 6032. Hobstones Rec Cons.

An outgoing people person (salary £17,000) is needed by a large progressive computer software creating company to support the banking consultants. You will be able to take responsibility for your own desk and act as a lynch pin for this superb team. A secretarial background and Wordperfect 5.1 is essential. Typing 50 wpm. Telephone 071 628 9529 - Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants.

ASSISTANT to newly appointed Desk Top Publishing/Creative Director - major UK & global conglomerate. This new position involves assisting young DTP Director set up & develop in-house Graphics & DTP facility. Aged 21-25 with at least 1 year's secretarial experience, confidence with a creative streak, and a flair for IT, you will be immediately involved at the start end in this PA position. Salary negotiable - Benefits are above average with a performance orientated annual salary review. Client will consider temp to perm. Excellent secretarial skills essential - 1yr+ experience of WSW or WP5.1 for Windows, 60 wpm (accurate) SH advantageous for confidential dealings. For more information please fax me your CV 071 896 1378 (in confidence) or telephone Jacqui Grocott on 071 917 9938 for a job description. MMP Rec Cons

CITY Street-wise? - our client, a leading news group, seeks a top PA/Sec with City or blue chip finance department background keen to progress in a dynamic, media-oriented environment. Challenging one-to-one senior level role covering both Finance and Admin side. Good skills (60+wpm) essential. European Language useful. Salary c.£18K. Please call 071 493 8787 Gordon Yates Consultants

PERSONNEL Junior assistant £16,000 + excellent benefits. WP5.1, filing, record keeping, etc. Will train. City Word Rec Cons 071 600 8391.

£20,000 + Excel Bens. International Consultancy SW3 seek senior Director's secretary with SH/fast typing/Microsoftword or similar exp. Willingness & ability to undertake high profile typing duties with some admin will be rewarded with excellent conditions & long-term security. Mrs Prosser 071 589 6999 Beauchamp Bur.

GOODBYE-To-Rush-Hour! Flexible, team-oriented secretary required by Blue Chip, West End company. Working 11.00-7.00 for 3 dynamic, senior managers, you will use your skills of 80/55/DTP, enjoy putting presentations together and have an enthusiastic approach to your job. Salary £17,000 and good benefits. Age 23-30. Min 5 O'levels. Please call Joanna Beaumont on 071 434 4512. Crone Corkill Recruitment Consultants.

GRADUATE Research Sec £12,000 + free lunch. Prestigious SW1 Holding Co needs a capable college leaver to assist in the Corporate Development department. 90 wpm shorthand and 50 wpm essential. Age early 20's. Telephone 071 499 8070 - Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants.

MARKETING PA £19,000. Working for the Chief Executive of a leading W1 agency, you will be the right hand of a dynamic boss. 90 wpm shorthand and 55 wpm WP essential. Age 25-35. Telephone 071 499 8070 - Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants

PUBLIC CREME

INSTITUTE OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
Bath Street,
London EC1V 9EL
Tel: 071 608 6860
Department of Visual Science

Secretary/Personal Assistant

The Head of the Department of Visual Science is seeking to appoint an experienced Secretary/PA with a proven track record of organisational and secretarial skills. Word-processing skills are essential, as are good communication skills and a tactful manner. Experience of WordPerfect 5.1 and databases would be useful but is not essential. The Secretary/PA will work in a busy, varied, interesting and friendly environment.

The post offers significant developmental opportunities for the right candidate.

Starting salary negotiable in the range £13,433 - £17,749 pa including London Allowance.

For further information and an application form please contact the Personnel Officer at the above address, quoting reference 32443.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 6th April 1994.

The Institute operates a no-smoking policy.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

TEMPTING TIMES

BANKING Clerk with Lotus/Excel exp. Some reconciliation. £7.50 ph. Age 21-28. Ring Kathy Liddle on 071 437 9411. Centre Point Bureau.

FOR a friendly and efficient service, good hourly rates, temporary and varied temporary secretarial assignments, please phone Gresham Recruitment on 071) 831 9999.

RECEPTION - 18 week maternity cover required for St James's HQ of international PLC. Lovely role for experienced receptionist, handling non-pressured switchboard plus organising touches for all vict Some typing useful. Salary c£14,000 plus bens. Please call 071 493 8787 Gordon Yates Consultants.

TEMP/PA. MB Ward on the Ambassador to assist VP to American Bank. Must be able to work under pressure & long hours. Energetic & enthusiastic person. £9.00 ph. Sharon Meadow. Ring Kathy Liddle on 071 437 9411. Centre Point Bureau.

RECEPTION SELECTION

RECEPTIONIST £16,000
City firm of Solicitors are looking for a professional receptionist with impeccable speech & presentation. Unbelievable benefits package.
Call 071 836 0041
Staples Legal Agy

RECEPTIONISTS
One year contract £1,000 Bonus
Two smart receptionists to join prestigious City oil company now. Use your professional, polished manner to greet clients & answer a busy switchboard. 7-hour shifts, 8.00-4.00/10.30-6.30. Min 3 yrs exp. Age 25+. £6.50 per hour + £1,000 bonus.
Contact Sue Wood 071 256 6668
LOVE+TATE

DEENEE Co. Chelsea Area. Receptionist (28-35) to help run very busy reception desk of this prestigious International, friendly co. German & other languages useful. Top and base. Mrs Prosser 071 589 6999 Beauchamp Bur.

FUN, enthusiastic Rec/Tel. £14,000+ Bonus + Exc Bens. Exc pres. basic WP (50WPM) + good work record ess. Age 25-45. Next Age 071 287 3664.

KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY has a vacancy for a Part-time receptionist to our City Office. The successful applicant must have reception experience and keyboard skills. Excellent presentation together with a flexible and professional approach are essential. Excellent presentation together with a flexible and professional approach are essential. Hours 12-6 and in return we offer a good working environment with competitive salary and bens pkg. For further details please telephone Claire Mansbury/Jane Turner on 071-629 8171.

£14,000+ Receptionist for young professional City company. Primarily responsible for answering the 'phones & greeting visitors. Mail will be in charge of the mailing room, organising bods & supplies as well as some minimal typing. This busy position would suit a bright, friendly person who really enjoys dealing with people. Typing: 40 wpm. The Recruitment Company 071 831 1220.

RECEPTIONIST W1. One of London's leading secretarial agencies needs a well-presented, well-spoken receptionist. A wonderful opportunity to work in a friendly, happy environment. In addition to normal reception duties, you will need to have an interest in computers and have 50+ typing. If you want to make a positive move, call Julia Stones now on 071 434 4512. Crone Corkill Rec Cons.

RECEPTIONIST/Secretary required for small City office of an International Investment Co. Managing a switchboard, meeting and greeting visitors and assisting a busy team when the pressure is on. Experience in a similar environment, accurate typing and a positive and positive attitude are essential. Age 22-30. 5 GCSE's min, c£14,000 ass. Please call Kate Hodson on 071 377 8627. Crone Corkill Rec Cons.

RECEPTION vacancies from £12,000 - 16,000 (full time and part time). Currently we have several reception opportunities to established professional companies in the West End ranging from Banking and Marketing to Property and Retail. Reception experience and 40+ wpm typing preferred. For further information please call Charlotte on 071 437 6032 Hobstones Rec Cons.

RECEPTIONIST/Sec - SW11 - £14,000 p.a. Work locally for this fol. Sales Co. A sense of humour combined with excellent speech and presentation are essential ingredients for this busy reception. W/Windows + 55 wpm Typ. Anderson Hoare (rec cons) 071 824 8821.

NON-SECRETARIAL

Small Mayfair Estate Agent
Require an exp property negotiator age 30 - 50. Ability to deal with management & secretarial skills WP 5.1. Own car preferred. Good appearance, charm, personality and educated speaking voice essential. Small friendly office, common sense and versatility important. Salary/commission by negotiation.
Phone: 071 493 2224/2938 office hours
NO AGENTS

BENHAM & REEVES RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS
Need experienced negotiator for our Kensington offices. Excellent package for the right person.
TEL: 071 938 3522.

RUCK
LETTINGS NEGOTIATOR
Prof experienced required for active South Kensington Estate Agent. Must be cheerful, enthusiastic, 24 years + and car owner with knowledge of Kensington & Chelsea areas.
Apply ARMYAR
071 581 1741

BRIGHT Young Grad. 25+ with sporting mind; some language and relations. 6 months Experience - Chance to Train in Personnel Recruitment with our busy successful team at Covent Garden Bureau. Salary £12,500 - £13,500 and early Review/Bonuses. Contact David Fisher or Kim Bell 8 Maddox Street, London W1. Tel: 071 495 8022.

FLEXIBLE Beauty Carer. Earn up to £300 per week with Alveda the UK's fastest growing cosmetic company. We require a team to receive complimentary training as make-up artists and to participate in a number of events especially Cosmetic Fish Market 071 581 3019.

JUNIOR A/C exec req for sales promotion agency. Exp in ad/PR or similar essential - Ideal for sec who has been previously very involved. 25-26 Sal. to 16k ass Norma Skeens Rec 071 222 8091

OPERATIONS Assistant needed for this lively SW11 Co. Total involvement, to co-ordinating customer training and installations. Independent methodical approach. Comp. Lit + basic typing. Imm start. Sal £16,000 pa. Anderson Hoare (rec cons) 071 824 8821.

£200-400 pw. being earned by busy mother with no capital outlay. Interested? Please Call 081 442 0273

ADMINISTRATION

BUSINESS/Client Asst. To £17,000 + Exc Bens. Age 24-29. 2yrs ass. exp. Ires + A'Level std rec. Imp/Export exp or business/science qualif. useful. Next Age 071 287 3664.

RECRUITMENT Consultancy, W8 - We urgently require an Accounts/Admin Assistant to join our young and dynamic team. You will be getting involved with all aspects of our busy Accounts Department. You should have a working knowledge of payroll and WP experience. Salary £13-14K. Pls call Lisa on 071 938 1718.

PART TIME VACANCIES

AFTERNOON DELIGHT! - small, prestigious private company seeks professional Receptionist 1.30-6.30 daily. Busy switchboard. Friendly environment. No typing. Salary £9,000. Please call 071-493 6787 Gordon Yates Recruitment Consultants.

PART-TIME secretary required to work with a top West End firm. Ideally 2/3 days per week. Solid secretarial experience essential as well as knowledge of Freelance for Windows, Excel and Microsoft Word for Windows. Must be outgoing, well presented, proactive and available to start as a temp at the end of March. Age 25-40. Typing 60 + wpm. Please call Lara at Hobstones Recruitment on 071 437 6032 immediately.

RECEPTION/Secretary needed for architect's practice in South West London. Previous reception experience needed as well as 45+ wpm typing/WP. Salary £8,000, hours 1-5pm Mon-Fri. Please call Charlotte on 071 437 6032 for more information. Hobstones Rec Cons.

SHR SH Sec CC12WK for MD of Major W1 PLC. Daily 8.30am-1pm. Must be well presented. Excel Rec Cons 071 404 1010.

WE are looking for a Bookkeeper/Secretary to join us 3 days a week. Must be flexible, adaptable and willing with gd. b'keeping exp and 50 wpm typing. age 28-35. Judy Fisher Associates 071 437 2277.

WP Secretary required part-time for small friendly office in Mayfair 071 493 0551.

NON-SECRETARIAL

Manpower Opportunities

Customer Service Installation Coordinator

Our client, a telecommunications company in Battersea, is looking for an installation coordinator to manage a team of 8 staff.

Responsibilities will involve customer care and liaison, organising engineers' work priorities and budgetary control.

Ideally, you will be self motivated with proven communication and organisation skills. A commitment to the provision of high quality service in a client driven environment is essential.

A salary of £14 – £16,000 is on offer, together with a performance related bonus.

Call Susie McPherson
071 839 1361
11 The Strand WC2

MANPOWER
You can measure the difference

PUBLIC CREME

THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND
FACULTY OF GENERAL DENTAL PRACTITIONERS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Salary: £17,000 - £19,000 (depending on experience)
2 year fixed-term contract

The Royal College of Surgeons of England is responsible for maintaining the standards of surgery in England and Wales which is pursued through the training, education and examination of Surgeons and Dental Surgeons.

A position has arisen within the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners who strive to promote and co-ordinate the activities of the 18,000 General Dental Practitioners in the United Kingdom through courses, research, examinations, vocational training and audit.

The suitable candidate should possess at least three years senior administrative experience, including committee administration, office administration and WP/database skills, ideally with some experience in a public relations/commercial field. Excellent communication skills are essential, together with enthusiasm for team work, and the ability to bring initiative to this expanding venture. Knowledge of dental issues would be a bonus.

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Close date: 28th March 1994

Court of Appeal | Law Report March 16 1994 | Queen's Bench Divisional Court

Grant deduction is council expenditure

Regina v Secretary of State for Wales, Ex parte Gwent County Council

Before Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Waite

[Reasons March 9]

An amount deducted by the secretary of state from the revenue support grant to a council to recoup sums in respect of the maintenance grant made by central government to grant-maintained schools in the council's area constituted "expenditure" by the council within section 43(2)(a) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 for the purpose of calculating its annual budget requirement.

Furthermore, the amount of revenue support grant "payable to" the council for the purposes of an estimate required of it by section 44 of the Act was the gross amount payable before the making of the deduction.

The Court of Appeal so held when giving its reasons for dismissing on February 21 an appeal by the applicant, Gwent County Council, against the decision on February 11 of Mr Justice Pill in the Queen's Bench Division (*The Times* March 4) dismissing the council's application for judicial review of a decision by the respondent, the Secretary of State for Wales, conveyed in a letter dated November 30, 1993, concerning the manner in which Gwent should carry out its council tax calculations.

Mr John Howell, QC, for Gwent; Mr Richard Drabble for the secretary of state.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, delivering the judgment of the court, said that the appeal was concerned with local authority budget capping under the Local Government Finance Act 1992. It arose from the interaction of provisions in the 1992 Act and in the Education Reform Act 1988.

Education Reform Act 1988

Under chapter 4 of the Education Reform Act 1988 a duty was imposed on the secretary of state to maintain schools described as grant-maintained schools. He was required to make payments in respect of the expenses of maintaining those schools (section 52), and to do so by, among other means, making annual maintenance grants to the governing bodies of the schools (section 79(1)).

Section 81(1) conferred on the secretary of state power to recover from the former maintaining authority of a grant-maintained school sums in respect of the maintenance grant payable for the year in question to the governing body of the school.

Section 81(8) provided: "The secretary of state may recover sums due to him under this section from such an authority in either or both of the following ways: (a) by requiring the authority to pay the whole or any part of such sum at such time or times as he thinks fit; and (b) by deducting . . . the whole or any part of any such sum from any grant payable by him to the authority . . ."

The court would refer to the first recovery routes to paragraph (a) as "the payment route", and to the other route in paragraph (b) as "the deduction route".

Gwent was a local education authority and a former maintaining authority in respect of several schools which had opted out and become grant-maintained schools. The secretary of state intended to recover from Gwent sums in respect of the maintenance grant payable by him to the governing bodies of those schools.

He intended to obtain recoupment by the deduction route, by deducting the sums from the revenue support grant which otherwise would be payable by him to Gwent.

Local Government Finance Act 1988

Revenue support grant was paid pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1988. The secretary of state was required to pay revenue support grant each year to certain local authorities, described as "receiving authorities", as well as others (section 78(1)). Gwent was a receiving authority.

Local Government Finance Act 1992

Section 43 of the 1992 Act imposed on major precepting authorities an obligation to make a budget requirement calculation in relation to each financial year.

The amount of the annual budget requirement was of great importance to local authorities, because that sum triggered the secretary of state's power to designate an authority under section 54 and, hence, his power to limit the amount the authority was to be permitted to calculate as its budget requirement (section 56).

That power was triggered if, in the opinion of the secretary of state, the amount calculated by an authority as its budget requirement for the year was excessive, or if there was an excessive increase in the amount so calculated over the amount calculated as the authority's budget requirement for the previous financial year (section 54(1)).

Stated shortly, an authority's budget requirement was the difference between (a) its estimate of its expenditure for the forthcoming year and (b) its estimate of its income for the forthcoming year, income for that purpose not including money the authority expected to receive from either national or local taxation.

The calculation was spelled out in section 43. Under section 43(2) the authority was required to calculate the total of "(a) the expenditure the authority estimates it will incur in the year in performing its functions and will charge to a revenue account for the year . . ." and three other matters which did not need to be specified.

On the other side of the account the authority was required by section 43(3) to calculate the total of two items, of which was material: "(a) the sums which it estimates will be payable to it for the year and to respect of which amounts will be credited to a revenue account for the year, other than sums which it estimates will be so payable in respect of re-distributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant or additional grant or any precept issued by it . . ."

The authority had then to strike a balance between its "expenditure" total under section 43(2) and its "non-taxation income" total under section 43(3). The extent by which the former exceeded the latter was the authority's budget requirement for the year.

The first question

The first question arising on the appeal could be formulated thus: was a sum recoverable by the secretary of state under section 81 of the Education Reform Act 1988 by the deduction route expenditure within the meaning of section 43(2)(a) of the 1992 Act?

The second question

The second, inter-related, question arose under section 44(1), which set out a formula which a major precepting authority was to apply in calculating the basic amount of its council tax.

One part of the formula involved deducting from the amount of the authority's budget requirement "the aggregate of the sums which the authority estimates will be payable to it for the year in respect of re-distributed non-domestic rates, revenue support grant or additional grant".

The second question could be stated thus: when the secretary of state was proceeding to recover a sum under section 81 by the deduction route, was the amount of revenue support grant payable to the authority for the purposes of section 44 the gross amount, that is, the amount payable before the deduction was made under section 81(8)(b)?

The intention of Parliament

In the court's view the most telling point was that, when enacting the 1992 Act, Parliament could not have intended that the choice by the secretary of state of the recovery route he wished to pursue under the Education Reform Act 1988 should have repercussions on a local authority's budget requirement and, accordingly, on its liability to be capped.

That really would make no sense.

Section 44(1)

Against that background the court was in no doubt that the amount to be included by an authority in its section 44(1) calculation as its estimate of revenue support grant payable to it for the year was the gross, and not the net, amount of revenue support grant.

Section 43(2)(a)

Turning to the first question, concerning the meaning of "expenditure" in section 43(2)(a), at first sight the position was not so straightforward.

A sum deducted from revenue support grant at source did not immediately accord with ordinary notions of expenditure.

In the court's view the key to the problem was to be found in keeping in mind the reason why the deduction was being made. Section 81(8) did no more than set out two means of recovery by the secretary of state of a sum "due to him under the section".

If the secretary of state chose the payment route, the payment by the authority would be "expenditure the authority . . . will incur in the year in performing its functions".

The court did not see why recoupment of a sum due to the secretary of state by the deduction route under section 81(8)(b) should be treated any differently.

The two routes prescribed in section 81(8) were merely two alternative ways of satisfying the same obligation.

In the court's view, therefore, both questions were to be answered affirmatively.

Solicitors: Mr M. J. Perry, Cwmbran; Treasury Solicitor.

Competing care and residence order applications

Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council v E and Others

Before Sir Donald Nicholls, Vice-Chancellor, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Waite

[Reasons March 9]

Where there were applications by a local authority for a care order against a parent and by a member of the extended family for a residence order, the judge was not bound to make a positive finding on the residence order application before considering whether there was jurisdiction to grant a care order.

In considering whether the threshold criteria under section 32(1) of the Children Act 1989 for the making of a care order were satisfied, it was not enough to demonstrate that the person with parental responsibility for the child could not provide the required degree of care and safety: if, at the hearing date, some suitable carer within the family was willing and able to give the child care to a reasonable parental standard, it would be impossible to say that the criteria for the making of a care order were satisfied. Further, that principle might be capable of being extended by analogy to suitable third parties outside the family.

The Court of Appeal so stated when giving reasons for their decision on February 28 to allow the appeal of E's maternal great-aunt from an order made on October 21, 1993 by Judge Fawcus, at Manchester County Court, granting a care order in respect of E in favour of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council.

The Court of Appeal varied the judge's care order by making an interim care order pending rehearing before a High Court judge of the local authority's care order application and the aunt's application for a residence order.

Miss Lindsey Kushner, QC and Miss Julia Cheetham for the great-aunt; Mr James Townend, QC and Mr Bernard Wallwork for Oldham; Miss Diana Eaglestone for the mother; Miss Lesley Anne Newton for the guardian *ad litem*.

LORD JUSTICE WAITE said that two principles appeared to be clearly established by *In re M (a Minor) (Care order: Threshold conditions)* (*The Times* October 20, 1993; [1994] 2 WLR 200).

First, the threshold conditions fell to be examined as at the date of the hearing. Second, it was not enough to demonstrate that the person with parental responsibility for the child could not provide the required degree of care and safety. If, at the hearing date, there was available some suitable carer within the family willing and able to give the child care to a reasonable parental standard, it was impossible to say that the criteria for a public law order were satisfied.

The emphasis given to kinship in Lord Justice Balcombe's judgment in *In re M* was clearly appropriate in view of section 17(1)(b) of the 1989 Act and the common law principles which it enshrined.

It might, however, be necessary in future to consider whether, and to what extent, the same principle was capable of being extended to instances where it was not possible to satisfy the section 17(1)(b) objective.

No such issue arose in the present case but his Lordship did not understand Lord Justice Balcombe's references to a "family home" as being intended to preclude consideration of the question, should it arise in any future case, whether the principle was capable of being extended by analogy to suitable third parties who were not relatives of the minor.

One issue to which counsel's submissions gave rise was: in "third party" cases, that is, where a local authority was applying for the public law remedy of a care order against a parent and a member of the extended family was available to provide alternative care and was applying for a residence order, was the judge bound to decide the residence order application independently of, and prior to, any consideration of the question whether the threshold criteria for a public law order were made out?

The answer to that question should be "No". The court was master of its own procedure and could adapt the order of consideration of the applications before it to the needs of each particular case.

In most cases the best course, as all parties to the instant case had agreed, would be for the public and private law applications to be listed together and the evidence on both taken at the same time.

Obviously some preliminary consideration would need to be given by the judge to the question whether the residence order applicant could be regarded as a suitable alternative carer before effective consideration could be given to the threshold questions.

His Lordship could not see any justification, however, for insisting that the judge should make a positive finding on the residence order application before going on to consider whether there was jurisdiction to grant a care order.

There was accordingly no scope for acceding to Miss Newton's submission that the judge's order should be sustained on the basis that it represented the result of an independent process of preliminary enquiry which would have been required of him in any event, before any question of appraising the threshold criteria arose at all.

Solicitors: Hills, Oldham; Sharpe Pritchard for Mr David Shipp, Oldham; Hinchliffes, Oldham; Gibsons, Royton.

Trial in defendant's absence was unjustified

Regina v Dewsbury Magistrates Court, Ex parte K

Before Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Curtis

[Judgment March 8]

The convenience of the court was not a factor which could possibly justify the trial in his absence of a youth aged 16, not on bail and with no record of previous failure to attend the court, on a serious charge such as burglary of a dwelling house.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing the application of K, a juvenile, for *certiorari* to quash (i) his conviction by Dewsbury Justices on May 17, 1993 on an offence of burglary after a trial conducted to his absence under section 11(1) of the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 and (ii) their decision not to direct, pursuant to section 142 of that Act, a rehearing of the matter.

Mr Edward Fitzgerald for K; Mr Derek Zeitlin for the prosecution; the justices did not appear and were not represented.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that K had been charged with the burglary of a dwelling house and had been remanded into the care of his local authority. He had not been on bail, and, although aware that his trial would take place at the sitting of the court on May 17, 1993, failed to attend until, according to the clerk's note, 12.45pm. He had not failed to attend the court previously.

The justices had acceded to an application for trial in the applicant's absence on the grounds that although (a) it was a serious allegation to which he would be denied the opportunity of putting his defence and (b) he was only 16: (i) he had known of the date and time of the hearing and had not contacted the court or his solicitor to explain his non-attendance, (ii) seven witnesses for the prosecution had attended court, (iii) one day had been set aside for the trial, (iv) the alleged offence was four months old and it would have had a detrimental effect on the evidence to have had any further delay and (v) delay would have prejudiced the welfare of the applicant.

The applicant's solicitor had then withdrawn from the case and the trial had proceeded. The magistrates had retired to consider their verdict and at 1.05pm, and having reached one of guilt, were informed by their legal adviser of the applicant's recent arrival.

The clerk, thinking it best to telephone the applicant's solicitor and inform him of the applicant's arrival so that an appropriate application could be made at 2pm, had not informed the justices immediately of the applicant's arrival.

The justices therefore had proceeded to announce their verdict and at 2pm declined K's application for a rehearing under section 142 of the 1980 Act.

They had done so on the grounds that notwithstanding the applicant's age, his stated confusion about the hearing and the seriousness of the charge, as the prosecution witnesses had left court and could not be contacted that day, there was no requirement of justice that the case be reheard.

His Lordship said that in deciding to try the applicant in his absence, the convenience of the court was not a negligible factor but could not possibly outweigh the facts that the applicant was 16, on a very serious charge where he risked, if convicted, a custodial sentence, had not been put on bail and had no record of non-attendance.

A danger of proceeding in an applicant's absence was, as to the present case, that, arguably, inadmissible evidence would be heard by the court for want of anyone to challenge it.

With the benefit of hindsight, the clerk ought more promptly to have informed the justices of the applicant's arrival in order to forestall their arrival at a verdict.

As to the application for rehearing, his Lordship would agree with the applicant's submission that the inconvenience of the court could never outweigh the interest of justice that a defendant should have the opportunity of defending a serious charge of the sort to the present case.

The only other justification for the refusal had been the failure to attend which clearly was not intentional. Why otherwise would the applicant have bothered to attend at all?

It was unfair and unjust of the justices not to have reheard the matter.

MR JUSTICE CURTIS, agreeing, said that the justices had erred originally when remanding the applicant to the care of the local authority either in not extracting an undertaking from them to produce the applicant on the day and at the time fixed or in not putting him on bail, with or without surety, with a condition of attendance.

The failure to rehear the matter when the applicant eventually arrived simply compounded the error.

Solicitors: Harris Segal & Co for Chadwick Lawrence, Dewsbury; CPS, Wakefield.

Applying proviso to corroboration point

Regina v L (Corroboration direction)

There was no fixed rule of law or practice that the proviso to the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 might never be applied in a case where the direction on corroboration had been inadequate or incomplete.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Beldam, Mr Justice Judge and Mrs Justice Ebsworth) so stated on February 11 in dismissing an appeal by L against his conviction in August 1993 at Mold Crown Court (Judge Edwards and a jury) of two counts of indecent assault and one count of indecency with a child for which he was sentenced to a total of 18 months imprisonment.

MR JUSTICE JUDGE said that the appellant had been acquitted of two further alleged offences of indecent assault, another of indecency with a child and two of attempted rape.

It was clear from an analysis of the salient features of the evidence that the jury acquitted on each count where there was no evidence capable of providing corroboration but convicted where there was.

In the context of the summing-up as a whole and the direction which the judge gave on corroboration, notwithstanding the omission of material matters, the court was satisfied that the omissions made no difference to the outcome of the case and that no miscarriage of justice occurred.

Accordingly the proviso would be applied and the appeal was dismissed.

Decision was invalid

Regina v West London Licensing Justices, Ex parte Davis

Since licensing justices had not the power to make a ruling which they purported to make, there was no decision which might be overruled or concerning which a declaration might be made.

Accordingly, while the court had ruled on the substantive point the relief sought had to be refused and costs could not be granted.

Mr Justice Pill so stated in the Queen's Bench Division on February 16 when refusing the application of licensees of a public house for *certiorari* to quash a statement of West London Licensing Justices that serving drink with the knowledge that it was to be consumed on non-licensed areas of the premises was unlawful and a declaration that that statement of the justices was to no effect and itself unlawful.

HIS LORDSHIP said that after the justices had granted a certificate under section 20 of the Licensing Act 1964 for alterations to the premises, the chairman, on the invitation of the clerk, had gone on to make the statement challenged.

That pronouncement was not correct nor necessary to a section 20 application, therefore it was not a decision which could be challenged and no relief could be granted.

Housing Act duties owed to public

Regina v Northavon District Council, Ex parte Palmer

The duties of a housing authority under section 62 of the Housing Act 1985 were owed for the public benefit and did not give rise, when breached, to any private cause of action for damages.

Mr Roger Toulson, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held on February 15 in a reserved judgment on an application for judicial review of the failure by Northavon District Council to process applications according to part III of the Housing Act 1985 and to particular section 62 thereof.

HIS LORDSHIP found that the council was in breach of its duty under section 62 to make enquiries concerning the applicant's homelessness and the question arose whether a claim lay for damages.

Enquiries by a local authority under section 62 were what Lord Bridge of Harwich had described in *Cocks v Thanet District Council* ([1983] 2 AC 286, 292-3) as part of its decision-making and, therefore, public law functions.

The conduct of the enquiries would concern not only an applicant but also the public purse and those who might lose priority on the housing list. While the latter might seek judicial review of an authority's laxity in conducting its enquiries, it would be a different matter to say that any additional waiting time sounded in damages.

For those reasons, section 62 gave rise to no private law actions.

Police driver cannot rely on defence of necessity

Director of Public Prosecutions v Harris

Before Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Curtis

[Judgment March 7]

The driver of a vehicle being used for police purposes who failed to stop at a red traffic light could not rely on a common law defence of necessity to a charge of driving without due care and attention.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held when allowing the appeal by way of case stated of prosecution against the dismissal on March 10, 1993 by Hove Justices of an information alleging that Nigel Eastwood Harris did on June 29, 1992 at Hove drive a motor vehicle on a road without due care and attention contrary to section 3 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Regulation 34 of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (SI 1981 No 859) provides: "(1) . . . (a) . . . the red signal shall convey the prohibition that vehicular traffic shall not proceed beyond the stop line . . .: (b) on an occasion when a vehicle is being used for . . . police purposes and the observance of the prohibition conveyed by the red signal . . . would be likely to hinder the use of that vehicle for the purpose for which it is being used on that occasion, then . . . sub-paragraph (a) shall not apply . . . but instead the prohibition . . . shall be that that vehicle shall not proceed beyond the stop line . . . in such a manner or at such a time . . . as is likely to cause danger to the driver of any other vehicle proceeding on or from another road . . . or part of the same road in accordance with the indications of the light signals operating there in association with the said red signal or as to necessitate the driver of any other such vehicle to change its speed or course in order to avoid an accident . . ."

Mr James Turner for the prosecutioo; Mr Nicholas Lobbenberg for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE McCOWAN said that the defendant, a detective constable, had been driving an unmarked police car, covertly following a vehicle carrying persons believed to be planning to carry out an armed robbery later that day.

In order to maintain contact with the suspects, the defendant had negotiated a road junction against a red traffic light and had collided with another vehicle. He had contended that his actions had arisen out of necessity and that he was not therefore guilty of driving without due care and attention.

The justices had acquitted him and, on appeal by the prosecution, Mr Turner had accepted that there was clear authority that a common law defence of necessity of circumstances could be relied on as a defence to a charge of reckless driving.

He had contended, however, that it could never apply to a charge of driving without due care and attention (the wider proposition) or at least that it could not apply to such a charge where regulation 34 of the 1981 Regulations applied (the narrower proposition).

Although his Lordship was inclined to agree with the wider proposition, it was unnecessary to decide the point.

On the narrower proposition, his Lordship accepted as correct the submission that the care due from the driver in the present case was specifically provided for by regulation 34. There was no scope for the doctrine of necessity of circumstances.

The care due would have involved waiting for a couple of seconds at the junction or edging slowly forward, being prepared to stop if there had been a vehicle in the lane crossing the junction.

Further, although the point did not arise, his Lordship agreed with the prosecution's submission that the doctrine would have no application to a charge of reckless driving where, regularion 34 applying, the driver had gone through a red light. His Lordship asked whether the result would have been any different if the defence of necessity had been available.

Having referred to *R v Martin (Colin)* ((1989) 88 Cr App R 343) and the passage in *Archbold, Criminal Pleading Evidence and Practice* (volume 2 (1994) paragraph 17-162) his Lordship said that the court would have looked at all the circumstances, including the nature of the emergency, in order to assess the reasonableness and proportionality of what had been done.

On the facts, a defence of necessity would have had to fail. All the defendant needed to have done in order to avoid the risk of serious injury or even death was to have stopped for a couple of seconds before crossing the junction or to have edged forward slowly.

While, therefore, the justices ought to have convicted, his Lordship would not remit the case for rehearing with a direction to convict because nearly two years had elapsed since the offence and the defendant had been able to call powerful evidence regarding the threat posed by those whom he had been chasing.

MR JUSTICE CURTIS, concurring with Lord Justice McCowan in the result, said he had not found the appeal easy to decide.

His Lordship advanced the following propositions:

1 In such a case, involving an emergency vehicle driving through a red light and a charge of driving without due care and attention, such defence of necessity as existed was as set out in regulation 34, particularly as the words following "but instead the prohibition . . ." were mandatory.

2 Necessity was a defence to both a charge of reckless driving and a charge of driving without due care and attention in circumstances other than the present, as the section 3 offence was an alternative verdict to reckless driving and the non-availability of necessity as a defence to the section 3 charge would be anomalous.

3 On the facts, the defence of necessity was not in any event open to the defendant because he had not acted reasonably and proportionately.

4 The defence would only arise in exceptional cases.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Brighton; Russell Jones & Walker.

Resigning employee has no right to work out notice

Marshall (Cambridge) Ltd v Hamblin

Before Judge Hargrove, QC, Mr D. O. Gladwin and Miss A. P. Vale

[Judgment March 3]

Where a contract of employment gave an employer the option to make a payment in lieu of notice, an employee who gave notice had no right to work out that notice if the employer chose to pay the appropriate sum in lieu, even where the major part of the employee's remuneration came from commission.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held by a majority (Mr Gladwin dissenting) in allowing an appeal by the employers, Marshall (Cambridge) Ltd, from the decision, dated October 31, 1991, of a Bury St Edmunds industrial tribunal that the employee, Martin Raine Hamblin, had been unfairly dismissed.

Miss Lindsay Boswell for the employers; Mr Hamblin in person.

JUDGE HARGROVE said that the employee was a car salesman. He received a basic wage and also commission on the cars he sold. His commission constituted a substantial proportion of his receipts, sometimes 75 per cent. On November 18, 1990 he gave notice of resignation which would terminate his employment in three months. The employers decided to pay the employee his salary, excluding any commission, up to that date and refused to allow him to continue working after November 30.

The industrial tribunal's approach was that the employers could not waive a notice which had already been given by the employee. That was not a correct analysis. Until such time as the employee's notice expired, the contract of employment continued. The employers were entitled to utilise a term of that contract to bring the employment to an end at an earlier date than the expiry of the notice.

The waiver of the employers was in relation to the period of notice, provided they paid the appropriate sum in lieu.

In a contract of employment which gave an employer the option to make a payment in lieu, there was no right in the employee to work out his notice. The fact that the employee derived the major part of his remuneration from commission did not affect the position.

First, there was no right to commission under the contract. All payments were at the discretion of the employers.

Second, even on the hypothesis that some sum in respect of lost commission was due to the employee, that did not prevent the employers waiving their notice and bringing matters to an end.

There was no dismissal in the present case. The employee resigned and within the terms of the contract the employers paid wages but not commission until the expiry of the notice. In so far as such commission was contractually recoverable that was a matter which lay outside the jurisdiction of the industrial tribunal, the correct forum being the county court.

Solicitors: Rustons & Lloyd, Newmarket.

Correction

In *R v Keane* (*The Times* March 15) the words "counsel submitted" should be inserted in line seven of the second leg of the report between the words "that" and "the".

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 071-782 7344

LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 4.106(1)
BUZZ MUSIC LIMITED
FRESHNAME NO.166 LIMITED
FRESHNAME NO.167 LIMITED
FRESHNAME NO.168 LIMITED
FRESHNAME NO.169 LIMITED
MOBILE MUSIC LIMITED
MOBILE STUDIO LIMITED
THE AIMS PROJECT LIMITED
THE MOBILE LABEL LIMITED
WYTEL PRODUCTIONS LIMITED
IN CREDITORS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Ian Frasses, Licensed Insolvency Practitioner of Ian Frasses Associates, Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP was appointed Liquidator of the above-named companies on the 10th March 1994.
All creditors who have not already done as are invited to prove their debts in writing to Mr Ian Frasses at Conduit House, 24 Conduit Place, London W2 1EP.
I Frasses
Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF:-
THE CAVAN GROUP LIMITED
ANCHOREALM LIMITED t/a BIG EASY
DEEPLACE LIMITED t/a ITALIAN KITCHEN
MODELACE LIMITED t/a LE BESTINGO
THE BIG EASY RESTAURANT CORPORATION LIMITED
BESTINGO LIMITED
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named Companies, which are being voluntarily wound up, are required, on or before the 19 April 1994, to send their full forenames and surnames, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims and, the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned.
K.P. Barry, FCA
Leonard Curtis & Co, PO Box 353, 30 Eastbourne Terrace, (2nd Floor), London W2 6LF the Liquidator of the said Companies, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.
DATED THIS 8th March 1994
K.P. BARRY
Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF
INTERNATIONAL ORIENTAL CARPET CENTRE LTD
AND
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company convened under the provisions of S.98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, and held on 10 March 1994, I, Melvyn Julian Carter of Carter Backer Winter, 189 Hoop, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU was duly appointed Liquidator of the company.
M J Carter
Dated this tenth day of March 1994

Notice of Appointment of Administrators
The Printing and Communications Services Group plc (Company No. 2356177)
Camden Colour Print Limited (Company No. 1349636)
Spectrum Colour Print Limited (Company No. 1977256)
Print Run (London) Limited (Company No. 1469151)
Waterside Press Limited (Company No. 2534779)
London Central Print & Design Limited (Company No. 2442455)
Crest Colour Graphics Limited (Company No. 2566692)
Clear Image Limited (Company No. 1800644
Fakin Foto Print Limited (formerly trading as TCM Reprographics) (Company No. 404804
Nature of Business: Printing Companies
Trade classification: 10
Date of appointment of administrators: 4 March 1994
Appointed by Order of the High Court of Justice: Chancery Division
R Hocking and G A Asger Joint Administrators
(office holder nos 2522 and 1057)
Address: Stoy Hayward 8 Baker Street London W1M 1DA

Notice of appointment of Liquidator voluntary winding up
Pursuant to section 109 of the Insolvency Act 1986
Company Number: 2670068
Name of company: Corrib Leisure Ltd
Nature of business: Operation of Bingo Halls
Address of registered office: Trevint House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1JQ.
Type of Liquidation: Voluntary
Liquidator: R A Segal, A Segal & Co, Trevint House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1JQ
Office Holder No: 002685
Date of appointment: 11 March 1994
By whom appointed: The Members & Creditors
Signature: R A Segal
Date: 11 March 1994

Notice of appointment of Liquidator voluntarily winding up
Pursuant to section 109 of the Insolvency Act 1986
Company Number: 2844140
Name of company: Zeltz Limited
Nature of business: Specialist Plasterers
Address of registered office: Trevint House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1JQ.
Type of Liquidation: Voluntary
Liquidator: R A Segal, A Segal & Co, Trevint House, 186-192 High Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1JQ
Office Holder No: 002685
Date of appointment: 11 March 1994
By whom appointed: The Members & Creditors
Signature: R A Segal
Date: 11 March 1994

Notice of appointment of Administrative Receiver
Jacobs Island Company (The Circle) plc
Registered number: 02589867
Nature of business: Property Trade classification: 38
Date of appointment of administrative receivers: 8 March 1994
Name of person appointing the administrative receivers: NYKREDIT
Names of administrative receivers: Alan John Barrett, Mark Charles Batten
Office Holder Nos. 1095, 6706
Address: No. 1 London Bridge London SE1 9QL

RULE 4.106 OF
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
SHIRWIN SERVICES LIMITED
(IN LIQUIDATION)
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, Nigel John Hamilton-Smith of Morton Thornton & Co, Tortington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD was appointed Liquidator of Shirwin Services Limited by a resolution at the meeting of the company's creditors held on 10th March 1994.
DATED this 10th day of March 1994
N J HAMILTON-SMITH
Liquidator

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
BELGRAVE INDUSTRIES LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN Pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a MEETING of the CREDITORS of the above named Company will be held on Monday 28th March 1994 at The Old Bakery, Lower Gower Road, Royston, Herts. at 12.00 noon for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 et seq of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Maurice Raymond Derrington, FIPA, of 4, Charterhouse Square, London, EC1M 6EN is appointed to act as the qualified Insolvency Practitioner pursuant to Section 98 (2) (b) of the said Act who will furnish Creditors with such information as they may require.
DATED this 8 day of March 1994
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
M. WILKINSON
Director

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
BROOKSIDE FROZEN FOODS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at The Priory Inn Hotel, London Road, Tetbury, Gloucestershire, on the 31st day of March 1994 at 11.30am in the morning for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.
On the two business days preceding the day of the meeting a list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge, at BDO Binder Hamlyn, Broad Quay House, Broad Quay, Bristol, BS1 4PQ.
DATED this 9th day of March 1994
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
E.G. Day
Secretary

TO: GEORGE THOMAS GURNEY
Last known at: 143 Blundfield Crescent, Burham, Slough, Berkshire SL1 6NN.
TAKE NOTICE that a Statutory Demand has been issued by the Creditor:
MIDLAND BANK PLC of 70, Pall Mall, London SW11 5EZ.
The Creditor demands payment of £327,251.53 the amount now due on judgements of the High Court of Justice, Queen's Bench Division, Reading District Registry, dated 29/04/92 and 28/06/92.
this Statutory Demand is an important document and it is deemed to have been served on you on the date of the first appearance of this advertisement. You MUST deal with this Demand within 21 days of the service upon you or you could be made bankrupt and your property and goods taken away from you. If you are in any doubt as to your position, you should seek advice immediately from a Solicitor or your nearest Citizens Advice Bureau.
The Statutory Demand can be obtained or is available for inspection at:
Brain & Brain 73 London Street Reading Berkshire Solicitors for the Creditors Tel: 0734 581441 Ref: GMJ/JJ
YOU HAVE ONLY 21 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THE FIRST ADVERTISEMENT BEFORE THE CREDITOR MAY PRESENT A BANKRUPTCY PETITION.

WORSLEY LEASING COMPANY LIMITED
AND
CHARLES HOWARTH & SONS LIMITED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 48(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above named Companies will be held at the offices of Hodgsons, George House, 48 George Street, Manchester M1 4HF, on 7th April 1994 at 11.00 a.m. for the purpose of having laid before it a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receivers under Section 48 of the said Act. The meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a Creditors Committee to exercise the functions conferred on, by or under the Act.
Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented at the meeting. Other creditors are only entitled to vote if they have delivered to us at the address shown above, no later than 12.00 noon on the business day before the meeting, written details of the debts they claim to be due and the claim has been duly admitted under the provisions of Rule 3.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, and they have lodged with us any proxy which the creditor intends to be used on his behalf.
Creditors may obtain a copy of the report, free of charge, on application to the Administrative Receivers at the address above.
Date: 11th March 1994
DAVID EMANUEL MERTON MOND FCA AND DAVID BOTTOMELY FCA
Joint Administrative Receivers

PUBLIC NOTICES

BEDSON formerly JONES née FRANKLIN, JUNE BEDSON formerly JONES née FRANKLIN WIDOW late of Woodsetts, Worksop, Nottinghamshire died there on 13 February 1994
(Estate about £350,000)
BRENNAN, RICHARD BRENNAN late of Primrose Hill, London NW1 died at St. John's Wood, London NW8 on 28 August 1991
(Estate about £20,000)
COX, BRIDGET COX otherwise PATRICIA JULIA COX SPINSTER late of Hailsham, East Sussex died there on 23 March 1990
(Estate about £13,000)
GIBBS, CHARLES ISAAC GIBBS late of Kentish Town, London NW5 died there on 9 April 1993
(Estate about £5,000)
JELNIKOV, JEVGENY JELNIKOV late of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire died there on 20 January 1992
(Estate about £9,000)
MAIDMENT, JOHN HARRY SPENCER MAIDMENT late of Bournemouth, Dorset died there on 14 January 1993
(Estate about £30,000)
MANSELL, MAUD MANSELL WIDOW late of Highbury, London N5 died there on 5 January 1992
(Estate about £8,900)
MEZZI, JOSEF MEZZI late of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire died there on 10 January 1991
(Estate about £4,000)
MISSEN, DORIS MARGARET MISSEN SPINSTER late of Haverhill, Suffolk died there on 21 December 1992
(Estate about £22,000)
MURPHY, EDNA FRANCES MURPHY SPINSTER late of Birmingham, West Midlands died there on 24 November 1991
(Estate about £8,200)
ORME, EDWARD GEOFFREY ORME late of Calverley, West Yorkshire died there on 30 March 1993
(Estate about £35,000)
SHELLEY, DOROTHY VIOLET MAY SHELLEY otherwise DOROTHY VIOLET MARY SHELLEY otherwise DOROTHY VIOLET SHELLEY otherwise DOROTHY SHELLEY SPINSTER late of Southend-on-Sea, Essex died there on 25 May 1993
(Estate about £30,000)
TREE, JOHN DAVID TREE otherwise JOHN TREE late of Brighton, East Sussex died there on 17 March 1993
(Estate about £100,000)
WIMPEY, GEORGE STANLEY WIMPEY late of Chiswick, London W4 died there on 7 December 1993
(Estate about £5,000)
The kin of the above-named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (BV), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

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A short walk from Victoria station. Fourth floor flat in modern block. Lift. Ind. CH & CW. 2 bedrms, recep rm, bathrm, cloakrm, kit, store rm, gge space, caretaker. 89 yr lease @ £60 p.a excl. In need of refurbishment. Bargain £155,000
CHELSEA, SW3
Pied a terre or letting investment. Ground floor flat in small modern block close to Kings Rd. Double bedrm recep rm kit, bathrm. 85 year lease at £25. p.a.excl. Offers around £135,000 invited.
SOLE AGENTS 071 730 9148

CHELSEA & KENSINGTON

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KEEN Purchaser seeks 1 bedrm flat, £75-90,000, immediate exchange as no mtge required. Any condition. 071 373 8060.

KENSINGTON SW5 Hogarth Est. Lge selection of flats & houses at realistic prices 071-373 9657

HOLLAND PARK W11 Stunning, Raised Grnd floor conv with high ceilings and period features, beautiful 100 W. facing gdn, elegant 27' recep, 2 large beds, 2 baths, fit kitchen. Viewing essential. £425,000. LESLIE MARSH 071 221 4805

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QUEENSDALE ROAD, W11
Newly available, an unmodernised Victorian house offering good accommodation. Could provide: 4 bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast room, 2 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms. 60' rear garden. Freehold £395,000.
QUEENSDALE ROAD W11
By National Square a well maintained terraced south facing flat - floated house with tall first floor windows, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, study, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom, garden/playroom, garden. Freehold £485,000.
ABBOTSBURY ROAD, W14
A 3 storey corner house in good decorative order throughout and opposite the park. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, garden, cloakroom, off street parking & garage. Leasehold £485,000.
ROYAL CRESCENT, W11
Lofty Regency 5 floor house with granted self-contained flat and lovely walled west-facing garden. 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, elegant 2 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, balcony, utility room, cloakroom, conservatory, cellar. Access Communal garden. Freehold £695,000.
HOLLAND PARK OFFICE 071 603 9275

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NEVERN SQ SW5 Very spacious 2 bed raised grd flr flat. £165,000. LHD. 071 373 5336.

RENTAL Investment. Freehold Mews hse 7 yrs old, central location. Notting Hill Gate. 3 dble beds. 2 baths. Recep. fit kit/dining rm. clk. garage. Immed Tenant 6%, return O'Neal. £260,000. Leslie Marsh 071 221 4805.

WEST KENSINGTON One bed first floor flat with balcony £77,000 081 348 6789 ask for Rainbow One

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Grade II Listed Gothic style family hse req modernisation & retaining orig features; W. facing 100' + gdn, gge, 5 beds, 2 baths, 2 elegant recs, kit: 4 further rms, kit & bath or gdn level F/h £700,000
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BERNARD WALSH
CHELSEA
Once home of James McNeill Whistler. Magnificent dble volume studio + gallery 2nd & 3rd flrs of fine building Tite St. 2 beds, 2 baths, poss 3rd bed, dining rm, clkrm, kit, lift, gh, chw. 75 yr lea. Commencing rental £500 p.a. excl. subject to 21 yearly reviews
£650,000
SOLE AGENTS
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TOWER BRIDGE W/fse conv. 2 beds, 2 baths, sep wc. Recep, kit. Orig features. Porter. £140,000.
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NORTH OF THE THAMES

BROOK GREEN W14. Newly built f/h hse with gge set close to the village. 4 beds. 3 baths (2 ens). 31 ft dbl recep, dining rm, fully fit kit. + bkfast rm. conserv. plasma, cloakrm, lge cellar, lge sth facing gdn. off st pkng. £490,000. Tel 081 767 0621

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KENTISH TOWN NW5. 6 bed period house on 3 floors. Good dec condition. House features mini garden with westerly aspect. Kit/diner, 2 receptions, gas ch. Convenient shopping & transport. £209,500 f/hold. Baker Rae 071 482 4488

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LITTLE VENICE Large garden maisonette, 3 beds. £260,000. Ian Jones P'ship 071-266 4821

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NOTTING HILL GATE 2 bed flat sole use of garden. £148,000. Share of freehold. Westbourne Estates 071 229 8444

NR HYDE PARK: Bathurst Mews W2. 2 bed hse with gge. Ready to move in. Recep, kit, bath, shwr rm. £286,000. F/H. Pereds 071 221 1404 (offmx).

PIMLICO - 5 storey house with 4/5 beds, 4 receps and garden + f/terrace. Freehold. £545,000. Dauntons 071-834 8000

SEYMORE PLACE Lge top flr apt rooms, 2 beds, terr, £245,000. Horne & Son 071-499 9344

ST JOHNS WOOD. Self contained grnd flr 2/3 bedrm gdn flat. En suite bathrm, showerrm, dressing rm. £210,000 Stratfons 071 724 4499

W12. Edwardian Rectory, landmark, newly refurb, 4 beds, 3 rec, 2 WC's. Car plot, free gdn with arge. Room for expansion. f/h. £255,000. 081 743 3101.

WESTMINSTER HOUSE - Unused, mod 4 floors, roof terrace + gdn. 93 yrs. £250,000. Dauntons 071-834 8000

WESTMINSTER 1 bed flat, roof terrace (25'x 8'). £112,500. Dauntons 071-834 8000

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

BARNES Large bright family house, 4/5 bedrms, 2 bathrms, study, kitchen, utility rm, living rm, dining rm, cloakrm, conservatory, lge garden. £350,000. 081 748 6610.

CLAPHAM PK Spacious 1930's mid terr hse, 3 bed, 2 rec, sep gdn, dbl. GCH. centre 20 mins. Cl amens. £95K 071 737 2920.

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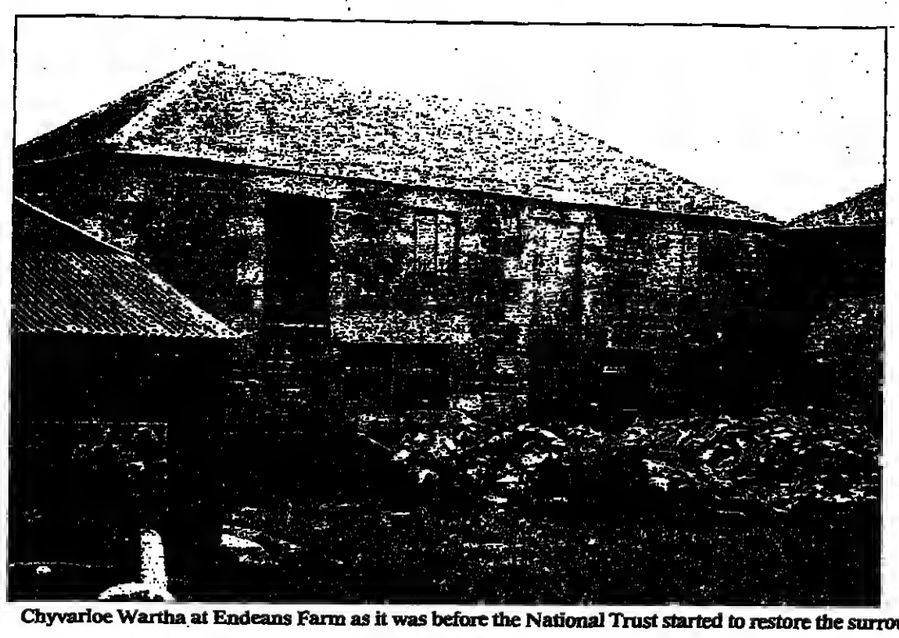
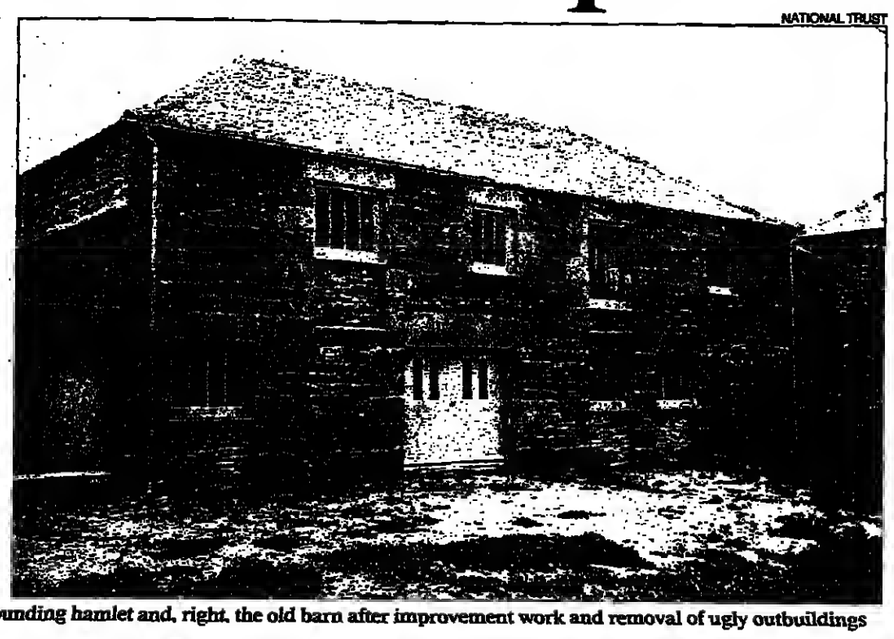
David Thurlow on a National Trust project to restore tradition to a Cornish hamlet

A blot off the landscape





NATIONAL TRUST

Chyvarloe Wartha at Endeans Farm as it was before the National Trust started to restore the surrounding hamlet and, right, the old barn after improvement work and removal of ugly outbuildings

A dying Cornish farming hamlet marred by electricity pylons, huge sheds jutting up ugly and crude on the skyline, and a straggle of new outbuildings, has undergone an award-winning transformation by the National Trust.

Gone are the overhead cables, hanging like sagging washing lines, and scruffy buildings marring the skyline at Chyvarloe near Helston. In its place are order and beauty.

The traditional Cornish hamlet — a cluster of five farmhouses, outbuildings and unsightly extensions — was a mess when it was given to the Trust. For its work, the Trust has won a Europa Nostra Diploma of Merit. The award scheme, started in 1978, recognises projects that make a distinguished contribution to the conservation and enhancement of Europe's architectural and natural heritage.

The hamlet, of mostly Grade II listed buildings, stands in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty by Looe Pool, Cornwall's biggest natural freshwater lake, which is separated from the sea by a shingle bar. The renovation has meant that the hamlet is once again a thriving community — just as it was hundreds of years ago. A survey in 1782 showed six holdings here and the number has stayed the same. One of the barns, Chyvarloe Wartha, has been restored from the sorry state it was in five years ago and is now a handsome building, renovated to a high standard with traditional roof, new windows and repointed stonework. Within the yard area at the front is a further stable barn which can be used for storage.

Now on the market at £59,000 for a four-year lease, the 2,000 sq ft barn is advertised as having three bedrooms, bathroom and storeroom on the ground floor, and two reception rooms, a kitchen and a lavatory upstairs. It is a mile from the sea.

The lease can easily be extended by a further 50-year term, because the Trust wants the buyer to live there rather than use it as a holiday home. It seems a snip, although there is a snag — the money buys only the shell. The buyer has to develop the rest. However, everything is ready, including planning permission, water and electricity. All it needs is another £50,000 or so to make it into the home the Trust and estate agents envisage.

Marilyn Liddicoat, the Trust's assistant public affairs manager for Cornwall, says: "The barn has been purposely left this way so that people can do it up as they wish. The outside has been done so it fits in with the overall structure."

The hamlet revived: unsightly power lines have been taken down

The Chyvarloe conversion is a good example of what can be done with the will and the money.

The skyline when the Trust took over the property looked unsightly, marking a dying community of three modest farms and a smallholding. There were five farmhouses and a separate cottage, all occupied. The Trust let the occupants stay until they retired; the farms were then rationalised into workable units. Chyvarloe Farm, for instance, is now a 180-acre farm supporting two families. Two other houses are now occupied, and once Wartha finds an owner the hamlet will be back to the way it used to be.

The hamlet's restoration has been achieved with a lot of thought. Traditional materials — wood, stone and slate — have been used to keep a vernacular appearance. The biggest task was to move the sheds from the hilltop and rebuild them in a fold in the landscape behind Chyvarloe farmhouse. This has been done by the use of hedges to provide screening. Farmers will not be allowed to take them down. A line of bedraggled electricity poles, another eyesore, have been taken down and the lines concealed underground.

Various uses were considered for those buildings not suitable for modern agricultural usage, such as Dales and Endeans farms, which are sited slightly away from the main farming activities. The Trust carried out feasibility studies into using them as craft workshops, for light industry or even for subdivision into holiday units. The object was to retain the appearance of farm units. All were turned down on the grounds of incompatibility with the hamlet. Instead, Endeans was converted to a house and the Dales farm and buildings have been turned into a base camp to accommodate volunteer workers and school groups who will help to conserve the area.

The Trust has also provided two screened car parks away from the hamlet. They provide access to footpaths serving the houses, where the special needs of the disabled are a priority, and to the five-mile footpath circling the pool and the Cornish coastal footpaths.

Ms Liddicoat says: "The hamlet is important because it is typical of the traditional Cornish hamlet with vernacular buildings. A lot of hamlets have lost their original character and there are few left. Once they have gone, it is very difficult to revive them.

"When we were given the hamlet it was spoilt by the sight of inappropriate new buildings on the skyline. We have restored them to encourage and maintain rural communities. It is now a thriving little community again.

"The restoration was a labour of love. I don't know of any other organisation that could have carried out this project."

IN THE MARKET

Is this a good time to buy?

☐ First-time buyers are in the best position to buy for more than a decade. According to fresh research, they need spend only 26 per cent of their salary on a mortgage.

Early last year, the average first-time buyer needed 38 per cent of their pay to buy, according to the TSB's "affordability index", which measures the cost of buying.

The index analyses take-home pay figures, monthly mortgage costs, tax rates and mortgage tax rates in the most detailed index to date.

A typical first-time buyer is assumed to take a 90 per cent mortgage. Houses were at their most expensive for these buyers in the winter of 1990, when the average first-timer needed 67 per cent of their income to fund their mortgage.

John Wriglesworth, a housing market analyst, said first-time buyers were the key to recovery in the market as they injected new cash, created fresh demand and allowed the creation of chains. "First-time buyers borrow £85 in every £100 of new mortgage money," Dr Wriglesworth said.

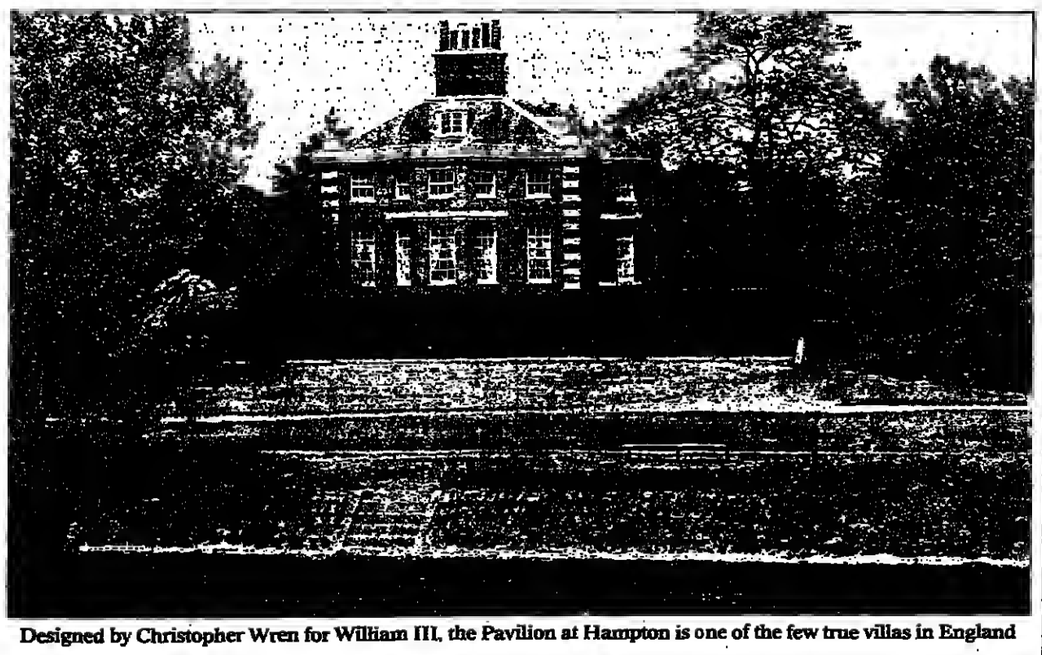
The typical TSB first-time buyer earns £15,100 a year, takes home £915 and spends £242 a month on a mortgage to buy an average £48,000 first-time buyer property.

Safety net needed

☐ Self-regulation has failed to put an end to irresponsible behaviour among some building societies towards their borrowers, says the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux.

There is now a strong case for statutory regulation of insurers and building societies, the association says. There should be regulation of mortgage protection insurance, measures to allow borrowers in debt to sell and repay outstanding arrears, and the introduction of a mortgage-benefit scheme to help low-paid home-owners.

Get away from it all — for Elm the Pavilion is yours on a 50-year lease



Designed by Christopher Wren for William III, the Pavilion at Hampton is one of the few true villas in England

Last of the great villas

A rare species of house is on the market: a "villa" built, not on the Costa del Sol or in the Tuscan hills, but in the suburbs of London. The Pavilion stands in the grounds of Hampton Court Palace in Hampton, southwest London. One of four designed by Christopher Wren for William III to use for entertaining, it was built in 1700, and is the only one left. It is listed Grade I and has four bedrooms.

With the river opposite and a deer park on the other three sides, the Pavilion can offer tranquillity, even if clean air is no longer available in great quantities. The lease has 50 years to run but the Crown Estate, which owns the freehold, is likely to grant an extension. Knight Frank & Rutley is asking £1 million.

The word "villa" has modern connotations, but at one time the English version was reckoned without equal, an example of a good idea refined and perfectly executed. However, villas form a largely neglected branch of domestic architecture and many no longer exist.

The distinguishing feature of the English villa was its function as a weekend retreat, away from the noise and dirt of the city. Unlike its Italian predecessor, it was not attached to a farm, nor was it ever intended to be run as a country estate. It was merely a place for small-scale entertainment and relaxation, an escape from the rigours of work.

Surrounding land was laid out as a park or extensive gardens. Daniel Defoe described them as places where people could "retire from the hurries of business and from getting money, to draw their breath in a clean air".

In *The Epistle to Burlington*, Alexander Pope makes a withering attack on Timon, a vulgar representative of the *nouveaux riches*, the merchants, bankers and fledgling stockbrokers with more money than sense and even less taste. Timon's crime? To build a new house, a villa, in the suburbs.

> *"At Timon's Villa let us pass a day,*
> *where all cry out, 'what sums are thrown away!'"*

Pope himself had nothing against either villas or even the suburbs. He lived in a villa at Twickenham (not far from Hampton Court) and went so far as to open its riverside gardens to the public. But he believed it was important that house and garden should be in harmony with nature.

Fortunately, some of the *arrivistes* followed Pope's advice, and some fine English villas were built in what are now bizarre surroundings.

South London suburbs such as Bromley, Sutton and Mitcham are not associated with fashionable living, but they were exactly the areas chosen because of their proximity to the capital. With later urbanisation, villas started to appear in other areas and in outer London's municipal parks. So Sutton has Carshalton House, built by a tobacco merchant and now a school. In Bromley is Plaistow Lodge — more mansion than lodge — built for a West Indies merchant and now a school. Mitcham has Eagle House, where Catherine of Braganza's doctor lived. It has been restored as offices.

> The English villa was built as a weekend retreat

Aristocrats got in on this building boom, supplementing the country estate and house in London with a villa in between. The Earl of Clarendon owned the handsome York House in Twickenham, now used by the local council. Even royalty caught on to the coat-tails of the fashion when George II commissioned White Lodge in Richmond Park. The neo-palladian villa has become a school.

In their very origins lie the reasons for their neglect. Money quickly gained was equally quickly lost and without the sustenance of a large estate, these houses changed hands many times. Improved transport also meant that people seeking rural calm could travel more easily into the countryside proper. In the 19th century, most villas went into decline, and few stayed as private residences.

Of the villas that survive, a few are open to the public, among them Kenwood on Hampstead Heath, which was largely reworked by Robert Adam in the 18th century and now houses the Iveagh Bequest, a collection of paintings. Marble Hill in Twickenham was built in 1729 by Henrietta Howard, a mistress of the Prince of Wales, who became George II. Her neighbour was Pope, who planned her park according to his own prescription — "in all let Nature never be forgot". Unfortunately, after Howard's death the house was neglected, until it was restored and reopened this century.

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McGinlay earns chance for cap as Scotland seek more firepower

Brown sets sights on Europe with mixed bag

By Kevin McCarra

FOR a man with a dicky knee, Craig Brown has a surprising aptitude for the balancing act. The Scotland coach yesterday named his squad for the match with Holland, at the rebuilt Hampden Park on March 23, and managed to keep faith with established players while also setting his sights on the 1996 European championship. His principal innovation lies in the inclusion of John McGinlay.

The Bolton Wanderers striker, 30 next month, has a strong chance of winning his first cap. His career has been one long, late arrival, for McGinlay did not even reach senior football until he was 24, moving from Elgin City to Shrewsbury for £25,000 in 1988.

The forward's timing has improved with age; three of this season's 24 goals came against Charlton 11 days ago, with a member of the Scotland back-room staff watching.

A Goram (Rangers), B Gunn (Norwich), J Leighton (Hibernian); S McKimmie (Aberdeen), B Irvine (Aberdeen), A McLaren (Hearts), C Levein (Hearts), C Hendry (Blackburn Rovers), D Robertson (Rangers), T Boyd (Celtic), P McStay (Celtic), J Collins (Celtic), G McAllister (Leeds United), P O'Donnell (Motherwell), W McKinlay (Dundee United), S McCall (Rangers), I Ferguson (Rangers), A McCoist (Rangers), G Durie (Rangers), J McGinlay (Bolton Wanderers), E Jess (Aberdeen), S Booth (Aberdeen), P Nevin (Tranmere Rovers).

Brown was unapologetic over his elderly debutant, saying: "If any guy is prepared to pull on the jersey and die for the cause, then I'm interested regardless of his age." Despite its combative tone, there lurks a confession in that comment. Scotland cannot afford to be overly choosy when selecting forwards. Stocks are low.

As Brown wryly observed: "If you want a game for Scotland, it's best to be a striker." Kevin Gallacher, of Blackburn Rovers, has a broken leg and Duncan Ferguson, Rangers £4 million centre forward, cannot even win a game at Ibrox. Nonetheless, yesterday's squad does contain Ally McCoist and the Aberdeen duo of Eoin Jess and Scott Booth.

McCoist has still to rediscover his full finishing power after breaking his leg in April of last year. Jess and Booth have jointly amassed only 17 goals all season, but are preferred to their 31-year-old Pittodrie colleague, Duncan Shearer, who has 21 to his name. Other members of yesterday's party, such as the Celtic full back, Tom Boyd, have struggled for form.

"Some of these players are in the squad to encourage them and show loyalty," Brown said. He will also anticipate a return on that emotional investment.

Andy Goram, having just returned for Rangers after a nine-month absence following knee surgery, is hastily bundled back into the international scene. Brown recognises that the goalkeeper is still short of full fitness, but hopes he is helping to nurse Goram towards the peak condition Scotland will require when the European championship qualifiers begin in September.

It is these group contests with Russia, Greece, Finland, the Faeroe Islands and San Marino which are already on Brown's mind. He said of his pool yesterday that it "represents my vision of what our European championship squad should be". This vision evidently includes some permanent blind spots.

Richard Gough, the Rangers captain, was not picked yesterday, and there is clearly to be no rehabilitation of the defender who made scathing criticisms of both Brown and his predecessor, Andy Roxburgh.

There are more likely to be changes of emphasis than of personnel. Brown, for instance, gave Gary McAllister, of Leeds United, the captaincy against Italy in October, and told the midfielder this week that he would hold the position through the qualifiers.

The attempt to strengthen the bonds has seen Brown arrange a night out to an Italian restaurant on Monday. Nowadays, when one hears of Scotland players hitting the sauce two days before a match, it can be assumed that Bolognese is under discussion.

McGinlay, the Bolton striker, whose selection is a reward for persistence

Celtic faithful set to return

CELTIC'S long-suffering supporters are likely to return in large numbers tonight to show their support for the new regime at Parkhead. A fortnight ago, an official boycott organised by the "Celts for Change" action group resulted in the lowest gate of the season, 10,882, for a premier division match against Kilmarnock.

Much has happened since then, however, with three directors being removed and the new alliance of Fergus McCann and Brian Dempsey pulling the club back from the brink of financial ruin.

Football matters will take priority again when Celtic tackle Dundee in a game in which victory would lift Lou Macari's side into fourth place. A 30,000 crowd is expected for the start of a new era with Macari glad to see the players and supporters back in harmony.

"In the time I've been here, the lack of numbers on the terraces has been a bigger problem to the team than other happenings inside the club," Macari said.

"I feel it must have had an effect on players like Paul McStay and Pat Bonner who have been accustomed to big, noisy crowds of 35,000 or 40,000. Players thrive on atmosphere. They turn it on in front of a big crowd but their performances are often less impressive if the crowd is small. There is a new feeling of anticipation here and I hope we can get the crowd behind us."

Midfield player Pat McGinlay, carried off on a stretcher with a back injury during the 1-0 win over St Johnstone 11 days ago, has made a full recovery and the team should be unchanged from that match.

Dundee are without Alan Dinnie and George Shaw because of injuries, allowing Neil Duffy and Paul Tosh the opportunity to come back into the team.

Winning games is the best reply for Ferguson

By Peter Ball

MANCHESTER United find winning football matches considerably easier than winning arguments with the Football Association. Yesterday, after Oldham decided against joining United's protest, the FA decided that the FA Cup semi-final between the two would go ahead at Wembley as planned.

United, for their part, decided not to appeal against Schmeichel's suspension for the Coca-Cola Cup final. Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday: "We understand that there was a circular after the Bosnich incident and that referees are now under pressure to adhere strictly to the law.

"In the light of all that I think Peter Schmeichel was very unlucky to be sent off for deliberate handball, but we are not going to appeal."

Tonight, United will revert to what they do best when they meet Sheffield Wednesday yet again, this time in the FA Carling Premiership at Old Trafford. Their home form has been less than devastating recently. Eleven days ago, Chelsea ended their unbeaten run that stretched from Novemeber 1992, and tonight's opponents are likely to provide much more difficult opposition at Old Trafford than they did at Hillsborough in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final.

With Blackburn breathing down their necks, United need to win — and Ferguson is confident. "We have 12 games to go, and these players are capable of winning all 12."

United are unchanged, Ferguson keeping Schmeichel rather than giving Sealey a run out.

There was some bad news for Terry Venables yesterday. Jason McAteer, who has emerged as one of the game's finest prospects during Bolton's FA Cup run, has accepted a place in the Ireland squad to meet Russia in Dublin on Wednesday.

Everton have dismissed Billy Kenny, their England Under-21 international who made 22 first-team appearances last season, for "gross misconduct," Mike Walker, the Everton manager, said. "When I arrived at Goodison Park he was absent without leave. When he returned certain rules were laid down, but he has now broken those rules and he is suffering the inevitable consequence of his actions," he said.

Henry recovers to claim British title

JEREMY Henry, 20, a student at Coleraine Technical College, who plays for the Provincial Towns indoor bowls club at Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, yesterday became the youngest British Isles indoor singles champion when he achieved a remarkable 21-18 victory over Russell Morgan, of East Dorset (David Rhys Jones writes).

Henry scored singles on the first four ends and stretched his lead to 14-7 after 13, but Morgan seemed to have done enough to win when he took an 18-15 lead by the nineteenth end. Morgan set up a good position on the twentieth end, only to see Henry send the jack out of bounds. It was the turning point. Henry drew a good three on the replay to tie 18-18 and notched up another treble on the 21st to win 21-18.

Steve Rees and John Price, from Swansea, became the first pair successfully to defend the title, beating Ian Bell and Graham Robertson, of East Lothian, 21-19.

Bruised and battered

YACHTING: As the leading crews in the Whitbread Round the World Race awaited the arrival in Punta del Este last night of the last two yachts at the finish of the fourth stage, tales of frightening derring-do and despair began to emerge from the lower ranks within the fleet.

Dawn Riley's bruised and battered all-women *Heineken* crew, in seventh position overall, endured appalling conditions, as did the crew of *Dolphin & Youth Challenge*, who found that three bolts holding the keel had been sheered. Then a 60-knot blast blew the mainsail to shreds.

Rising challengers

SQUASH: Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, and Michelle Martin, of Australia, will defend their Hi-Tec British Open titles at Wembley next month under threat from the most talented rising generation this tournament will have seen. Jansher is likely to meet the ambitious England No 3, Tony Hands, as early as the second round proper. English opponents are likely to provide the early problems for Martin, scheduled for a quarter-final against either Cassandra Jackman or Martine Le Moignan, both former British champions.

British team changes

ATHLETICS: Injuries have forced Richard Nerurkar and Andrew Pearson to withdraw from Great Britain's team for the world cross-country championships in Budapest on March 26. Their replacements are John Nuttall, of Preston, and Darren Mead, from Norfolk. The travelling reserve is Dermott Donnelly (Annadale Striders). Jenny Clague has been forced out of the women's team by an Achilles tendon injury. She is replaced by Wendy Ore (Bridgend) and the travelling reserve is Jayne Spark, of Altrincham.

Brake keeps nerve

RACKETS: Peter Brake, the Queen's Club professional, gained the first win of his career over the world professional champion, Neil Smith, in the final of the Western Open championship at the Detroit Racket Clob. Brake, who recently took the British professional title, kept his nerve as Smith, a powerful left-hander, staged a fighting recovery from 1-2 and 3-9 to level the match at two games all. Smith then led 11-8 in the decider but Brake kept going for his shots and hit several winners to take the title in thrilling style.

Closing in on record

YACHTING: The 92ft catamaran, *ENZA New Zealand*, skippered by Peter Blake and Robin Knox-Johnston, was racing neck-and-neck with Olivier de Kersauson's trimaran, *La Lyonnaise des Eaux Dumez*, on the final leg in an attempt to break the 79-day record for a non-stop circumnavigation. The two giant multihulls were within 5,500 miles of the finish line at Ushant and about 1,700 miles ahead of the previous record schedule. Both need to average more than 305 miles over the remaining distance.

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No end in sight to Marseilles enquiry

THE new president of the French football federation (FFF) said yesterday fresh hearings would be held next month into allegations of bribery against Marseilles.

Claude Simonet, who was elected last month after Jean Fournet-Fayard had resigned in the wake of heavy criticism of his failure to conclude the match-rigging saga, told a news conference yesterday that he would not be rushed.

Simonet has been urged by the Fifa general secretary, Sepp Blatter, to take final action as soon as possible but his time-table means the affair is almost certain to run past the first anniversary of an infamous match.

Marseilles have been accused of trying to bribe Valenciennes players to lose a vital French league game on May 20 last year, six days before Marseilles became European champions.

Simonet said a calendar for dealing with the issue would be outlined on March 25. "But we must give clubs, officials and players the chance to restate their defence," he said.

Hearings would probably finish three or four weeks later, he added, and the federation council would announce its verdict by May 28, when it is due to meet in Lens.

Uefa, the European governing body, banned Marseilles from international competition last year in frustration at the French federation's failure to act decisively.

Jean-Jacques Eydelie, the Marseilles midfield player, had admitted to a judge that he gave FFr250,000 to opposition players. Eydelie and two members of the Valenciennes team, Jorge Burruchaga and Christophe Robert, were banned from French competition last September, a sanction later extended worldwide by Fifa.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Denver 116 San Antonio 88; Charlotte 107 Boston 101; Utah 102 Los Angeles Lakers 101; Detroit 106 Sacramento 102.

BOWLS

RUSHCLIFFE, Nottingham: British Isles indoor championships: Finals: Singles: J Henry (Ire) bt R Morgan (Eng), 21-18. Under-25 singles: O Peacock (Scot) bt N Skidmore (Eng), 21-3. Pairs: S Rees and J Price (Wales) bt I Bell and G Robertson (Scot), 21-12. Triples: A Binnie, J Jeans, W Galloway (Scot) bt W Tomlinson, G Hulton, J Mills (Eng), 17-13. Fours: C Velland, N Thompson, S Truchy, W Richards (Eng) bt B Moffat, J Henry, R Weir, I McClure (Ire), 20-15.

CRICKET

TOUR MATCH: New Plymouth (first day of three): New Zealand Academy XI 253-6 dec (B Pocock 139 not out): Indians 98-1 (A Jadeja 55 not out).

CYCLING

TIRRENO-ADRIATICO RACE: Seventh stage (Montegranaro to Monte Urano, 167km): (Italy unless stated): 1, G Furlan 4hr 16min 41sec; 2, 3 Collago; 3, E Berzin (Russ) both same time; 4, S Della Santa at 3sec; 5, F Casagrande 8sec. Overall: 1, Furlan 30hr 13min 7sec; 2, Berzin at 47sec; 3, Collago 53; 4, A Elli 1min 7sec; 5, Casagrande 1:10.

FOOTBALL

FA CUP: Sixth round: West Ham 0 Luton 0 (replay March 23).

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Hednesford 2 Solihull 1.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: League Challenge Cup: Fourth round: Hyde 5 Gt Harwood Town 2; Emley 0 Accrington Stanley 0. First division: Caernarfon Town 0 Guiseley 5.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Mangotsfield Utd 4 Calne Town 1, Taunton Town 4 Bridgnorth 1.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn 1 Sheffield Wednesday 1; Notts County 1 Manchester United 2. Second division: Huddersfield 5 Burnley 3; Manchester City 1 West Bromwich 0; Mansfield 1 Blackpool 1.

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea 2 Arsenal 1; Swindon 0 Ipswich 0. Second division: Hereford 2 Birmingham 8.

FA YOUTH CUP: Grimsby Town 1 Bradford City 1.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Victory Shield Under-15 International: Wales 0, Northern Ireland 1 (at Newport).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Guernsey 1 FA XI 3.

HOCKEY

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Charterhouse 3 Tonbridge 3; Hurstpierpoint 2 Caterham 0; Kelly 2 Queen's, Taunton 1; Perse 2 Framlingham 1; KCS Wimbledon 1 St George's, Weybridge 0.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Florida 2 New York Rangers 1; Montreal 5 Boston 4; Quebec 5 Chicago 1.

LACROSSE

NORTH JUNIOR FLAGS: Final: Boardman and Eccles 10, Cheadle A 9 (at Didsbury).

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: England Under-19 6 English Universities 13 (at Timperley).

MOTOR RALLYING

WILSON MOTOR SPORT STAGES (Lake District): 1, O Watson-Clark (Escort Cosworth) 47min 58sec; 2, S Petch (Escort Cosworth) 48:36; 3, B Green (Sierra Cosworth) 49:00.

HENRY LIDDEN MEMORIAL RALLY (Somerset): 1, G Lang (Lotus Elan) 10min 18sec; 2, K Langford (Ford Escort), 12:08; 3, M Harris (Peugeot 205) 12:13.

NETBALL

NATIONAL CLUBS LEAGUE: First division: Toucans 35 Linden 41; Aquila 47 Harborne 42; BICC 36 Hertford Hornets 37. Second division: OPA 49 YWCA 41; Vauxhall Golds 32 Crawley Sports 52; Hornsey 31 Academy 48; Hirondelles wo Henley. Third division: Hucclecote 32 Kelmscott 45; Essex Wanderers 54 Chevrons 53; Wolverhampton 34 Weston Park 50; Wirral 56 Oakleaves 49.

ENGLAND (v Republic of Ireland, March 19): L Topliss (Derbyshire), W Hale (Essex), S Fleming (Middlesex), P Sutherland (Essex Met), L Sedeo (Middlesex), A Woods (Suffolk), F Murtagh (Middlesex), J Saunders (Essex Mets), K Sawinski (Bedfordshire), C Duncan (Suffolk).

RACKETS

DETROIT: Western open championship: Semi-finals (GB unless stated): N Smith bt L Danby 15-2, 15-0, 15-7; P Brake bt S Tulley (Can) 15-4, 15-10, 6-15, 17-15. Final: Brake bt Smith 17-18, 15-12, 16-14, 6-15, 15-11.

QUEEN'S CLUB, London: Lacoste British amateur doubles championship: Semi-finals: W Boone and T Cockroft bt J Spurling and M Hoe Williams 15-3, 6-15, 11-15, 13-16, 15-8, 15-12, 15-7; J Prenn and R Owen-Browne bt G Barker and A Robinson 10-15, 15-11, 9-15, 15-8, 15-2, 15-8.

REAL TENNIS

QUEEN'S CLUB: George Wimpey British amateur championship: First round: J Snow bt C Rothenoe 6-0, 6-1, 6-1; P Paterson bt N O'Hagan 6-0, 5-6, 6-4, 6-0; T Warburg bt N Baker 6-1, 6-2, 6-2; P Jarvis bt M Ward 6-0, 6-3, 5-6, 6-3; M Howard bt P Luck-Hille 6-3, 6-1, 6-3; B Barker bt A Beeson 5-6, 3-6, 6-5, 6-1, 6-1; I Snell bt M Drysdale 6-1, 6-1, 6-1; J Snow bt C Rothenoe 6-0, 6-1, 6-1; T Warburg bt N Baker 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

ORATORY SCHOOL: Field Trophy: Final: MCC bt Hatfield 3-2 (MCC names first): A Beeson and P Denby bt C Dean and N Lloyd 6-5, 6-5; M McMurrugh and L Wheatley bt J Symonds and C Barraclough 5-3, 6-1; J Ward lost to W Hollington 6-3, 6-0; M Howard bt D Colquhoun 3-6, 6-4, 6-4; H Angus lost to P Jarvis 6-5, 6-2.

NEW YORK: Cantas world championship: Second leg: First day: W Davies (Aus) leads R Fahey (Aus) 3 sets to 1 (6-4, 6-5, 6-5, 0-6.) First leg: Fahey bt Davies 7-1 (6-0, 6-5, 6-3, 6-2, 6-5, 5-6, 6-4, 6-4).

RUGBY UNION

WORLD CUP: Qualifying match: Bermuda 3 United States 60.

SHOOTING

TWICKENHAM: Schools open smallbore meeting: Senior: 25 yards: B Calver (Gresham's) 191. 50 yards: J Seabrook (Sevenoaks) 190. Overall aggregate: 1, Seabrook 375; 2, S Price (Sevenoaks) 373. Junior aggregate: 1, M Zethrin (Sevenoaks) 371; 2, J Hossack (Sevenoaks) 368. CCF issue rifle: Senior: J Lloyd (Wellington) 354. Junior: A Tilney (Wellington) 350. Teams of four: 1, Sevenoaks A 675; 2, Sevenoaks B 660.

TWICKENHAM: Universities open smallbore meeting: 25 yards: A Allnatt (London) 195. 50 yards: N Doherty (Edinburgh), A Jackson (Edinburgh) 193. 100 yards: G Barnett (London), D Russell (Glam) 194. Aggregate: 1, Russell 574; 2, Barnett 573; 3, G Cotto (Manchester) 571.

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK OF SCOTLAND NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Tooting 3 Ealing 1; Sport Set 0 Liverpool 3; Leeds 3, Newcastle Staffs 1; Lewisham 3 Wessex 1. Women: First division: Brixton 3 London 0; Britannia 1 Sale 3; Wessex 2 Guildford 3; Leeds 3 Portsmouth 2.

YACHTING

WHITBREAD ROUND-THE-WORLD RACE: Fourth leg (Auckland to Punta del Este): Maxi class: 1, New Zealand Endeavour (G Dalton, NZ) 21 days 2hr 28min; 2, Merit Cup (P Fehlmann, Switz) 21:00:45; 3, La Poste (E Tabarly, Fr) 21:12:35. Overall: 1, New Zealand Endeavour, 84:16:58; 2, Merit Cup, 85:12:05; 3, La Poste, 87:00:10. Whitbread 60 class: 1, Intrum Justitia (L Smith, Eur) 21:02:31; 2, Tokio (C Dickson, NZ) 21:07:29; 3, Yamaha (R Field, NZ) 21:07:37; 4, Galicia 93 Pescanova (J de la Gandara, Sp) 21:10:38; 5, Winston (B Butterworth, US) 22:02:28; 6, Brookfield (G Melsto, It) 22:05:47; 7, Heineken (D Riley, US) 22:16:40; 8, Dolphin & Youth Challenge (M Humphries, GB) 22:17:21 9, Helman Sahaidachny (E Platon, Ukr) 22:22:21. Overall: 1, Tokio, 84:18:55; 2, Intrum Justitia, 85:06:06; 3, Yamaha, 4, Galicia 93 Pescanova, 85:16:55; 5, Winston, 86:07:54; 6, Brookfield, 92:17:56; 7, Heineken; 94:10:17; 8, Dolphin & Youth Challenge, 96:10:17; 9, Helman Sahaidachny, 98:11:17. Other positions (at 14:00 GMT yesterday with miles to Punta del Este): Maxi class: 4, Uruguay Natural (G Vanzini, Urg) 105. Whitbread 60: 10, Odessa (A Verbe, Ukr) 149.

☐ *Information supplied by BT*

Kick-off 7.45 unless stated

FOOTBALL

Chelsea v Wimbledon .....
Leeds v Aston Villa .....
Manchester Utd v Sheffield Wed (8.0) ..
Oldham v Tottenham .....
Sheffield United v QPR .....

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

Bolton v Luton (7.30) .....
Nottm Forest v Barnsley (7.30) .....
Peterborough v Derby .....
Sunderland v Crystal Palace .....
West Brom v Notts County .....

Second division

Brighton v Burnley .....

Scottish League
Premier division

Celtic v Dundee (7.30) .....

Second division

Cowdenbeath v Stenhousemuir (7.30)

DIADORA LEAGUE(7.30): Premier division: Chesham v Hayes (7.45); Harrow v Hitchin; Molesey v Wokingham. Second division: Collier Row v Witham. Third division: Camberley v Flackwell Heath (7.45).

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE (7.30): Premier division: Atherstone v Burton; Corby Town v Nuneaton. Midland division: Dudley v Redditch (7.45). Southern division: Wealdstone v Tonbridge (8.0).

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE (7.30): First division Cup: Third round: Guiseley v Alfreton. League Challenge Cup: Fourth round: Bishop Auckland v Spennymoor; Boston United v Leek.

CARLING NORTH-WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE (7.30): Tennents Floodlit Trophy: Semi-final, first leg: Nantwich v Atherton LR. First division: Rossendale v Penrith.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE (7.30): Premier division: Crediton v Elmore; Torrington v Bideford; Westbury v Frome. Les Phillips Cup: Glastonbury v Dawlish.

JEWSON LEAGUE: Premier division: Felixstowe v Newmarket (7.30).

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE (7.0): First division: Coventry v Sunderland; Everton v Bolton; Leicester v Sheffield United; Newcastle v Liverpool; York v Leeds. Second division: Blackpool v Middlesbrough; Grimsby v Scunthorpe; Tranmere v Port Vale.

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION (7.30 unless stated): First division: Bristol Rovers v Luton; Ipswich v Bristol City; Oxford Utd v Tottenham; Swindon v Norwich; Watford v Portsmouth; Wimbledon v Southampton (2.0). Second division: Cheltenham v Swansea; Plymouth v Cardiff; Yeovil v Birmingham.

BASS IRISH CUP: Quarter-final replay: Cliftonville v Linfield (7.30).

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Group A: Bohemians v Galway (8.0).

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Welsh League
Second division

South Wales Police v Llanharan (7.15)

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Hertfordshire Clubs v Middlesex Clubs (at Hertford, 7.30).

CLUB MATCHES: Bridgend v Gloucester (7.15); Leicester v Nottingham (7.15); Mountain Ash v RTB (7.30); Narberth v Cardigan (7.30); Nuneaton v Coventry (7.30); Pontypridd v Bristol (7.15); Weston-super-Mare v Royal Signals (7.30).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Stones Bitter Championship
Second division

Ryedale York v Rochdale (7.30) .....

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: All-England championships (NEC, Birmingham).

BASKETBALL: Budweiser All Star Game: North All Star Team v South All Star Team (Granby Halls, Leicester, 8.0).

BOXING: Heavyweight contest: Frank Bruno v Jesse Ferguson (NEC, Birmingham).

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Answers from page 48

LCI

(c) A Landing Craft Infantry, small, uncomfortable and not very seaworthy transport craft, usually driven by RASC personnel, as part of Allied seaborne invasion forces in the last war. It was often a toss-up whether they would sink before they hit the beach. Sister boating vehicles were LCA (Assault) and LCT (Tank).

TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE

(b) The rebel leader of the black slaves of France's colony of Santo Domingo, "the pearl of the Antilles". In August, 1791, he led them in a bloody revolt against their masters, the *grands blancs*, or rich sugar-plantation owners. He was later captured by Napoleon's troops, and died in a French jail. His remarkable name derived from a successful breach or opening made by him in enemy lines.

VAVASOUR

(b) A feudal tenant ranking immediately below a baron, somebody who holds his lands from a tenant-in-chief, apparently from the medieval Latin *vassi vassorum* vassals of vassals: Walter Scott, *Castle Dangerous*, 1831: "One or two Scottish retainers or vavasours sat at the bottom of the table."

LEPID

(c) Pleasant, jocose, facetious, amusing. Sometimes charming or elegant. An adaptation of the Latin *lepidus*. "These histories are probably not many degrees elevated above the lepid fables of Mrs Goose."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Bxh7+! Kxh7 2 Qxf6 gxf6 3 Rh4 mate. If 1 ... Kh8 2 Qxf6 gxf6 3 Rh4 wins.

Hick asserts growing influence under Fletcher's guidance

Alan Lee reports from Georgetown, Guyana on the elevation of the England batsman from laughing-stock to potential match-winner

Hick: return to basics brought improvement

Whatever blame attaches to Keith Fletcher for England's woeful sequence of Test match results, a large measure of the credit is due to him for the transformation of Graeme Hick, flawed and despairing a year ago but now surging upwards on the achievement graph at a rate unrivalled by anybody in the team.

Under Fletcher, England's record is dreadful. They have lost nine Tests out of 11 and the bowling, in particular, is in such a depressing state of disrepair that the team manager is questioning whether his exhortations now have any effect at all. When it comes to Hick, however, he need have no such self-doubts.

Fletcher has battled through a fog of confusion surrounding Hick, the legacy of conflicting advice from too many well-meaning sources. The Fletcher instructions are straightforward and appropriate to the moment: back to basics. With four Tests to come in this series, final judgment must be suspended, but all the signs are that the pupil has responded.

"He has gone back to the way he played when he first came over to England," Fletcher said. "The way that is natural to him, with his weight on the front foot. He had got into bad habits, and consequently bad batting positions, by listening to too many people who thought he should be changing his game for Test cricket."

Hick's first two years in the England side were so bleak that only his reputation, and his remarkable county record, kept him in contention. After 21 Test innings, he was averaging 18.90. Many a player has been abandoned for less damning figures and Hick was broodingly aware of being regarded with a mixture of jealousy and derision. "After a while, you get tired of being laughed at," he said.

Since his maiden century, in Bombay last February, 12 innings have yielded 694 runs at an average of 57.83. As an instance of rewarded patience it exceeds even the case of Mike Gatting, who waited 53 Test innings for a century.

Hick's problems were partly in the head and partly in the feet. Accustomed and devoted to the coaching of his Worcestershire mentor, Basil D'Oliveira, Hick was swamped by attention when his Test career began amid unhealthy anticipation. The harder he tried, the more adjustments he made and the worse he played. In four Tests against the 1991 West Indies, Hick totalled 75 runs and was out six times in succession to Curtly Ambrose. Jeffrey Dujon, the wicket-keeper, scornfully claimed: "We can get him out any time we like."

The present West Indians already know better. Hick made 23 and 96 against them in Kingston three weeks ago, batting positively against fast bowlers who, previously, had cowed him. To a degree, he was simply conquering the Test-cricket vertigo that had frozen him, the rabbit in the headlights, against deliveries he would elsewhere have routinely attacked. But Fletcher knew there was more to it than that.

"People have this assumption that fast bowling must be played off the back foot. It simply isn't true. Look at Desmond Haynes — his initial movement is always forward. That is the way Hicky had learnt to play but he had listened to all those who said that he should be going back and across. It just didn't work for him. He was getting squared up, his bat in front of his body, and he was a sitting target waiting to be hit."

One of Fletcher's strengths as a manager is the frequency and content of his discussions with individuals. Hick is perhaps his greatest success. "I like to think I have helped by talking to him so much, but I never had any doubt about his ability," he said. "I think he will end his Test career with an average above 50. I know it's rare, but that is how good I think he is." What he will not countenance, however, is the suggestion that Hick should bat higher in the order.

"He will stay at No 5 for the rest of this series. If we pushed him up, maybe to three, and it didn't work straight away, we would just be putting pressure back on him. He's happy now, he's established in the side and he is confident in the way he is playing. It's best left like that," Fletcher said.

Whether Hick will bat at all in the Test due to start here tomorrow remains in doubt. Further heavy rain, topping up the total to four inches in five days, seeped under the covers at Bourda yesterday and preparation of the pitch is now way behind schedule. Already, there is talk of starting the game on Friday and playing on the rest day. If and when the game does begin, however, the potential influence of Hick will be acknowledged by all. There was a time when such respect was a distant, mocking dream.

☐ The funeral of Reg Hayter, who died on Sunday, will take place at St Bride's, Fleet Street, at 11am next Tuesday.

Later this week, a further chance to play the new game developed by *The Times* in association with the Test and County Cricket Board

Britain's hopes of bronze rise after stalemate

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN LILLEHAMMER

THE Great Britain sledge hockey team moved one step closer to the bronze medal at the Paralympic Games yesterday by holding Canada to a goalless draw in the last of the group matches.

The sides next meet tomorrow in the third and fourth place play-offs and, after yesterday's performance, the British players believe they can go one better next time.

After losing badly to Sweden at the weekend, Britain have managed to pull themselves together and with two good results against the favourites, Norway, and Canada, the future is looking much brighter.

Paul Ireson, one of the latest recruits to the squad, said: "The game has developed so much over the last couple of years and so has the team. People said we could never draw with Norway and after that they never believed we could hold Canada; but slowly we are getting the respect back again and we're moving nearer to the top of the pile."

As the competition moves into the final stages, the crowds at the Kristin Hall are growing each day. Yesterday they saw Britain pull everybody back to stifle the Canada attack, again using the forwards, Dave Hall and Tony Neale, to inject some speed into the defence.

But if they are to beat Canada they know they will have to work on their passing and find a way to get their fast men — Hall, Neale and John Lambert — out of their own half and within striking distance of the Canada goal.

The reaction of the Norwegian crowd has given Ireson hope that sledge hockey could take off as a sport in its own right.

Although the response to disability sport is usually guarded, the physical aspect of this game helps break down some of the barriers. And just because the players are disabled, it does not mean they are saints.

"There's a lot the referee doesn't see," Ireson said. "Anything blatant and you're off, but holding or just tapping someone's sledge as they pass at speed to knock them over is common. And when the front of someone's sledge rides up and hits you in the stomach you really feel it and the crowd loves it."

Holder and third seed knocked out as quarter-finals produce surprises

Schultz and Davenport walking tall

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

TWO Amazons overshadowed all else at the Lipton tournament here yesterday. Brenda Schultz and Lindsay Davenport, both of whom stand 6ft 2in tall, knocked out the holder, Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, and the third seed, Gabriela Sabatini, respectively to enter the semi-finals of the women's singles.

Sánchez Vicario, the comparatively diminutive Spaniard, had remained unbeaten here for two years and had never lost before to Schultz, the 23rd seed, from Holland. The records would have been protected if she had converted any one of the four match points she held to go through in straight sets.

Schultz's main weapon is her intimidating serve, the fastest on the women's tour. It has been timed at 114mph and, once she recovered from the deficit in the second set tie-break, she used it to win 1-6, 7-6, 6-3, and become only the eighth woman outside the top ten to defeat Sánchez Vicario in the past three years.

Sabatini, without a title since 1992, is more vulnerable but the margin of her defeat, by 6-2, 6-1, bordered on humiliation. Her brittle resistance lasted for no more than an hour against Davenport, 17, who had also beaten her within a few weeks of turning professional last year.

Davenport, from the United States, destined to be tall. Her father, Wink, is 6ft 8in and her mother, Ann, 5ft 10in. Although the teenager lacks mobility, as was exposed by Steffi Graf in the Australian Open, she is even more powerful than Schultz and Sabatini was unable to withstand the constant barrage.

For the past few days Andre Agassi has also been cutting people down on and off the court. First it was Mark Petchey, Britain's No 1. Then it was Boris Becker, the tenth seed, who fell 6-2, 7-5. Then it was Nick Bollettieri, the founder of the famed coaching academy in Florida.

Petchey did at least take him to three sets and was within a couple of points of serving for the match. Becker was, in common American parlance, "blown away" until he invited a ball girl to provide some comic relief which might disturb Agassi's fierce concentration.

Once the Las Vegan had secured his seventh successive victory over Becker, he rounded on his former mentor. More by allusion than accusation, more by innuendo than imputation, Agassi belittled the man who had shaped his career for a decade. The two parted company after Wimbledon eight months ago.

At the time the separation seemed amicable. Agassi now feels that Bollettieri is tactically deficient ("his knowledge is limited"), selfish ("you become more important to his career than he is to yours") and practically flawed ("he has never played the game but he can sell himself pretty well").

Bollettieri chose diplomatically not to respond to the verbal assault. "Andre has the liberty to say what he wants to say," he said. "For me to counteract against that would not be right." Yet he is shortly to publish his autobiography and the chapters featuring Agassi may be hastily revised.

Becker refuted suggestions that Agassi, during a display of ferocious hitting, imagined that the face of Bollettieri, who has been the German's coach for three months, was imprinted on the ball. "I don't think he tried more because Nick is now with me. He just played an excellent game of tennis."

Only one opponent so far has stopped Agassi. Stephanie Flaherty, 17, a schoolgirl at Hialeah-Miami Lakes High, accepted Becker's offer to take his place and won the ensuing four-stroke rally. "I didn't know what to do," she said. "We are not supposed to talk to the players."

A ball girl for nine years, she is her school's leading player. "That wasn't my best," she remarked. Becker was nevertheless impressed. He urged her to continue. "You have done better than me," he told her. "Keep going and perhaps you can win the game."

RESULTS

US unless stated

MEN'S SINGLES: Third round: P Haarhuis (Holl) bt J Apell (Swe) 6-4, 6-3; J Siemerink (Holl) bt A Chesnokov (Russ) 6-2, 6-3; J Yzaga (Peru) bt J Bjorkman (Swe) 6-4, 6-3; C Pioline (Fr) bt J Stark 6-4, 7-5; B Black (Zim) bt J Sánchez (Sp) 7-6, 7-6; P Rafter (Aus) bt M Rosset (Switz) 6-2, 6-3; A Agassi bt B Bekker (Ger) 6-2, 7-5; M Chang bt A Berasategui (Sp) 1-6, 6-4, 6-2; M Woodforde (Aus) bt J Palmer 6-7, 6-4, 6-3; G Ivanisevic (Cro) bt R Reneberg 6-4, 6-4; P Korda (Cz) bt B Gilbert 7-6, 6-3; J Grabb bt S Bruguera (Sp) 7-6, 6-3; S Edberg (Swe) bt J Stoltenberg (Aus) 7-6, 6-1; P Sampras bt O Wheaton 6-0, 5-7, 6-1; A Krickstein bt W Ferreira (SA) 4-6, 7-6, 6-3; J Courier bt A Chesnokov (Russ) 6-3, 7-5. Fourth round: Edberg bt Haarhuis 7-6, 6-1.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Fourth round: L Davenport bt N Tauziat (Fr) 6-0, 7-5; K Date (Japan) bt N Sawamatsu (Japan) 6-2, 6-4; J Novotna (Cz) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-4, 6-2; Sánchez Vicario bt P Fendick 6-1, 6-3; B Schultz (Holl) bt L Meskhi (Geo) 6-4, 6-2; S Graf (Ger) bt A Frazier 6-3, 6-0. Quarter-finals: Schultz (Holl) bt Sánchez Vicario 1-6, 7-6, 6-3; Davenport bt Sabatini 6-2, 6-1.

ROBERT SULLIVAN

Becker, the tenth seed, hits a backhand return during his third-round defeat by Agassi in Key Biscayne

Harding wrestles with offer to change direction

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

NANCY Kerrigan, the American who last month won the figure skating silver medal at the Winter Olympics only weeks after being attacked with an iron bar, has gone on to fame and fortune, signing a million dollar promotional deal with Walt Disney.

Tonya Harding, her rival, whose role in the attack is still uncertain, has had no such luck. Yesterday, however, things took a turn for the better. Harding received an offer of even greater riches than those promised to Kerrigan — from a Japanese wrestling team.

A spokesman for the All-Japan Women's Pro-wrestling Organisation said: "We first want to invite Harding to our match on March 27. Then she can make up her own mind after seeing the situation for herself. She was born to be a pro-wrestler." The organisation chairman, Takashi Matsunaga, was quoted as saying: "She's physically fit and used to adverse circumstances."

The spokesman said his group was ready to offer Harding a contract worth 200 million yen (£1.2 million), with further promises of "fight money" of about 40 million yen (£240,000) a year.

Harding is scheduled to arrive in Japan late this week to take part in the world figure skating championships in Makuhari, outside Tokyo. The group said that, so far, Harding had not responded to calls from its agent in the United States.

Harding will be taking part in the world championships after winning a court order obliging the United Skates Figure Skating Association to postpone a hearing on her role in the attack on Kerrigan.

Kerrigan was clubbed on the leg in Detroit on January 6 as she prepared for the finals of the United States national championships, which Harding then won. Kerrigan had been expected to win but the injuries she received prevented her from competing in the finals. She was later given special dispensation to represent the United States at the Olympics in Lillehammer.

Harding's bodyguard, Shawn Eckhardt, has admitted taking part in the assault and her former husband, Jeff Gillooly, has pleaded guilty to a charge in connection with it. Harding herself has denied involvement.

Rules of sport bending under weight of opinion

MIDWEEK VIEW

SIMON BARNES

Artistic impression is back among us next week. The world ice skating championships will be held in Makuhari, Japan, and those competitors who are still on speaking terms with the sport will be fighting it out for the warmest personal opinion, the most favourable bending of personal whim.

Of course, many people whose taste in sport does not run to frilly bits and glittery hits turn up their noses at skating, and say that it cannot possibly be a *real* sport, because the judging is subjective and arbitrary and what has artistic impression to do with *real* sport anyway?

Quite a lot, actually. The notion of artistic impression permeates every sport, and it often affects the results decisively. Let us start with real tough-guy stuff, the great non-sport of boxing.

A decision on points is a matter of interpretation. Close decisions are a matter of endless debate and in the end it comes down to personal taste, there being no known method of quantifying pain.

Some judges will bend in favour of the boxer who is more aggressive; others will favour a neat, classical defensive approach. It is a question of style, personal values, a purely subjective matter. Thus in his last fight, Chris Eubank retained his World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title on artistic impression: a judgment that must have pleased him.

In cricket, artistic impression is centred around the leg-before rule. There is a natural tendency among umpires, connoisseurs of cricket, to reward the purveyors of aspects of the game that please them.

A perfect example of this is Terry Alderman, bending the ball to his will, a connoisseur's delight. Two balls moving away, then one bending in, rapping the pad: beautiful bowling, crying out for reward. But how many of those perfect inswingers would have missed leg stump? Plenty, I suggest. But never mind that, Alderman was given 6.0 for artistic impression time and again.

The trade is not all one way. Batsmen gain marks, or lives, on the strength of their reputation. Umpires will lift a finger far more readily for leg-before against a tailender than a batsman of stature. This is not a question of malice or incompetence: simply a recognition of the fact that pure objectivity is unattainable.

On, then, to rugby union, and to Saturday, the last weekend of strife in the five nations' championship. Compared to union, ice dance is a hotbed of reason and objectivity.

Matches turn on penalties. Penalties are given for infringing the law, but the law changes from referee to referee. Personal interpretation runs amok. Players spend the first ten minutes of any game working out, or trying to, what the referee will punish and what he will permit.

England's defeat against Ireland hinged on a penalty Rob Andrew conceded by getting himself jumped on by Simon Geoghegan. The decision went for Geoghegan and Ireland when it might have gone the other way. Those three points for artistic impression won the day.

No game that has a human being as a referee, and emtional crowds to stir things along, can avoid an element of artistic impression. The phenomenon of the "homer" — a referee who tends to favour the home side, not one who writes epic poetry — shows how hard it is to find perfect objectivity.

Subjective decisions change matches. Peter Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, was sent off last Saturday for mayhem and craziness outside his penalty area.

Mark Bosnich, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, had a similar bout of temporary insanity in the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final but, gaining higher marks for artistic impression, he stayed on the pitch. The match came down to the penalty shoot-out. Bosnich had a blinder, saved three and Villa were in the final.

Meanwhile, England are out of the World Cup, because the referee in the match against Holland was reluctant to send off Ronald Koeman for yet another professional foul (or cheating, as it used to be called). Koeman, of course, then scored the decisive goal. England failed to make the World Cup finals on the grounds of poor artistic impression.

Sport aims to be a simple world, a world in which personal merit is quantifiable and everything is exactly what it appears. It aims to be a world of pure objectivity, a world in which all doubt and all question is eliminated. Sport must, indeed, try for all those things, but in the knowledge that it will always fall short. There is no escaping the marks for artistic impression.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
ANDORRA								
Soldeu	100	200	good	heavy	fair	fine	0	13/3
Good spring skiing off piste until midday								
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	0	90	fair	varied	slush	fine	11	6/3
Good conditions on Steinbergkogel first thing								
Mayrhofen	40	65	fair	spring	closed	fine	14	4/3
Wonderful spring skiing on Hintertux glacier								
Obergurgl	80	130	good	varied	slush	fine	7	6/3
Excellent piste skiing on upper runs								
St Anton	25	270	fair	heavy	heavy	sun	4	6/3
Excellent piste skiing in Stuben off Albona								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	120	300	good	fair	good	fine	8	12/3
Some enjoyable off-piste spring snow								
Chamonix	10	325	good	crust	slush	fine	12	12/3
Excellent hardpack off-piste skiing at Argentière								
Isola	120	180	good	soft	slush	sun	11	1/3
Excellent piste skiing on Saint-Sauveur								
Tignes	130	270	fair	spring	slush	fine	4	3/3
Cold air temp keeping snow in good condition								
Val Thorens	100	250	good	good	slush	fine	-2	8/3
Good spring snow on north-facing slopes								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	80	100	fair	varied	fair	sun	4	12/3
Enjoyable, forgiving moguls by afternoon								
C Montana	20	150	fair	varied	worn	fine	8	24/2
Best skiing in morning above 2000m								
Klosters	5	140	good	spring	fair	fine	10	12/3
Good piste skiing above 2000m in am								
Mürren	5	80	fair	varied	worn	sun	8	6/3
Fantastic spring snow in early morning								
St Moritz	50	220	good	varied	worn	sun	12	1/3
Good skiing on upper slopes of Corviglia								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Bruno tests waters in struggle for credibility

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

FRANK Bruno returns to the ring tonight to find out if he is still the promoters' favourite heavyweight and the nation's favourite sportsman. Both seem to be in some doubt at the moment in view of the attention given to Lennox Lewis, Michael Bentt and Herbie Hide, not to mention Torvill and Dean, and reports that the country is not exactly rushing to buy tickets to see Bruno against Jesse Ferguson at the NEC, Birmingham.

However, BBC publicity and judicious "papering" by Mickey Duff, the promoter, should ensure a respectable crowd at the arena and good television viewing figures.

Ferguson has been specially chosen by Duff to revive Bruno's credibility after three world title attempts and a sixth-round defeat by Lewis

Bruno: menacing

last October. Bruno needed a "name" opponent to make him look like a live contender.

Ferguson has boxed seven former world champions: Mike Tyson, James "Bonecrusher" Smith, Carl Williams, James "Buster" Douglas, Michael Dokes, Tony Tubbs and Riddick Bowe, losing to all but Douglas. He has sparred thousands of rounds with Tyson, as his chief sparring partner. All of which has tended to work against him. After his second-round knockout by Bowe, Ferguson fell from a top ten contender to No 19 and now, at 37, does seems to lack motivation and desire. He has lost 11 of his 31 contests.

He did not start boxing until he was 26, after a spell in the Marines to escape poverty on the streets of Raleigh, North Carolina. He began with the nickname "Thunder", but dropped it after a losing streak. Tyson smashed his nose, saying he wanted to "push his nose bone into his brain".

Ferguson was given a title bout against Riddick Bowe after he surprised Ray Mercer, who was booked to box Bowe for $1 million. It was alleged that when Mercer saw the bout slipping away, he offered Ferguson $100,000 to throw the fight. After examining the tapes of the contest with the use of a lip-reading machine, the New York commission accused Mercer of trying to bribe Ferguson.

If there's any talking tonight, no doubt it will come from Bruno's fists. He looked in tremendous shape, as usual, in training in Leicestershire, and is boxing with greater confidence and menace. It is as if the knowledge of being ahead of Lewis for five rounds has changed his outlook. If he can bring his gym boxing to the ring, we should see an exciting new Bruno.

Bruno and Ferguson have five opponents in common: Smith, Tyson, Williams, Anders Eklund and Reggie Gross. Bruno has beaten all but Smith and Tyson; Ferguson has lost to all except Gross. "If I didn't think Bruno could win I wouldn't have made the match," Duff said. "But it's not an easy fight. I expect Bruno to win on a late knockout, but you can't be sure of anything with Frank Bruno."

If Bruno can score by knockout, he should be back in favour with everyone, including the World Boxing Council (WBC) which, according to Duff, has dropped him from the top ten rankings.

☐ Steve Robinson, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) world featherweight champion, may ask for his next title defence to be put back. Robinson knocked out Paul Hodkinson, the former WBC title-holder, in the twelfth round of a bruising encounter on Saturday, and is scheduled to defend against Duke McKenzie, again at the Cardiff Ice Rink, on May 14.

"It would be silly to risk everything by going back in the ring too soon," Robinson said yesterday.

Country Lad cannot cope with occasion

Andrew Longmore sees reality spoil a dream for a woman trainer at Cheltenham

IAN STEWART

Sarah Williams arrives at Cheltenham with Country Lad, who could only finish a bewildered and tired sixth

For once in her life, Sarah Williams was lost for words. Reality had just gatecrashed a dream and the pat phrases behind which racehorse trainers learn to hide their feelings seemed as woefully inadequate as the piece of lucky white heather, a gift from her mother, hidden in her handbag. "There's always next year," she muttered without really meaning it.

Whatever Williams had said beforehand about being happy to finish in the first six, perspective had been submerged by a rising tide of expectations in the moments before the start of the Arkle Challenge Trophy.

If hope and justice could have lifted Country Lad round the Cheltenham old course, he would have won in a canter. But, left to his own devices against the toughest opposition in his six-year-old life, he could only finish a bewildered and tired sixth as if overwhelmed by the enormity of the occasion and the same nervousness which had reduced his trainer to jittery silence in the prelude to the biggest moment of her fledgling career as a trainer.

"He just ran a bit flat," the jockey, Simon McNeill, explained with a shake of the head. "I was pushing him all the way."

He had seen it all before. Both trainer and jockey had known the worst as early as the fourth fence.

Country Lad jumped it in fifth, emerged in eighth and long before the eventual winner, Nakir, had set sail for home, McNeill was left with only pride and experience to ride for.

Not even the famed Cheltenham hill could help Country Lad's cause. As if in tacit understanding that Cheltenham, at least yesterday, was a stride too far, he had run with the cares of the world on his muscular shoulders. In a sense they were.

Far more was at stake than the thousand to one each-way double his owner, Alyn Douch, had wagered a year ago. Glory and money; a better class of horse in Williams' young yard. Perhaps even the distant prospect of Julian Wilson getting her christian name right — Sarah not Sue — and the chance to remind the Jockey Club that a mother of three with a background as a legal secretary should not necessarily be excluded from the precious world of racing.

The Jockey Club had once written to Williams, telling her that if she wanted to get a full trainer's licence she had to win with both the horses in her yard. As one cost £500 and the other was regarded as "untrainable", this was a stinging edict. But they had misjudged the feisty, irrepressible nature of their lady. Within a season, she was able to write back — "done that" — and to advertise her services as a trainer in the pages of *The Sporting Life*.

She is more ambitious to get quality than quantity but her success from limited resources so far suggests that the demands of balancing the differing routines of 16 horses and her three daughters is by no means beyond either her enormous energy or the patience of her husband, Nick.

Not though, in her wildest dreams, could she have imagined the thrill of attracting a horse good enough to win twice at Cheltenham. But Country Lad did and a neat victory in a novice chase at Nottingham encouraged the fanciful notion that victory at the festival was within his range.

For Douch, the owner, Country Lad had proved a good substitute for a riding career which had ended after one race, at Haydock. "Look at this," he said, surveying the sunshine and the packed crowd on Cheltenham's front lawn. His strong Welsh tones at odds with the prevailing celtic accent.

"The atmosphere is unbelievable, as an owner, you can't ask for more than this." Country Lad is his only horse and he had brought a coach load of fellow farmers from Carmarthen to enjoy the day. But it was not to be. Not this time anyway.

Cheltenham does not yield so readily to sentiment and the tears of Vicky Douch, his wife, in the immediate aftermath of defeat, symbolised the disappointment which far more than glory or cash is the commonest currency at the festival. By the end of the day, with the long journey back to her yard in South Molton ahead, Williams had recovered her poise and her opera-trained voice. "There's always next year." This time, she meant it.

Oaksey braves the elements

BY BRIAN BEEL

THE chill factor reached Arctic proportions at Sedgefield yesterday, but Oaksey warmed the hearts of the Shiels family when he captured the penultimate qualifier in The Times Rising Stars series.

Only four took part, but the race was never dull, with little more than three or four lengths separating the runners for a circuit and a half.

Noel Wilson always led the party on Stelzer, but the second and third places were continually switching between Oaksey and Its A Deal.

However, Stelzer came back to his field after blundering at the fifteenth fence and at this point his lead over Its A Deal and Stewart Pittendrigh was cut to two lengths.

After jumping three out Stelzer seemed to have the measure of his field, but he then went lame and Wilson had no option but to pull him up.

With Frozen Forest struggling, interest focused on the duel between Its A Deal and Oaksey, who made up ground to jump the second-last upsides.

The race virtually ended at this point as Its A Deal fell, leaving Oaksey to jump the last at his leisure and give the 5lb-claiming rider, Ray Shiels, his 24th success.

Oaksey was bought for £3,500 after the 1992 point-to-point season, and within a month it was found that he had chipped a bone in a rear leg. This was operated on, but he failed to make it to a point-to-point course last season as he broke a rib when frolicking with another hunter in his field. "With the horrific injuries he's had, every race is a bonus," said the owner's mother, Isobel Shiels.

But the seven-year-old has done well this season as yesterday's success was his third in a row following maiden and restricted victories in point-to-points. "You couldn't say he was fluent," Shiels said. "He just battered his way through the fences."

Punters who had backed Oaksey, the 6-5 favourite, were losing their confidence as Stelzer went on, but Shiels was not in doubt. "He would have won if the others had finished," he said. "He stays forever and I would have caught the leader up the hill."

Clare Metcalfe, who was runner-up on Frozen Forest, has yet to ride a winner, but has been placed in all her six races this season.

The Times Rising Stars Series continues on Friday with the last qualifier at Lingfield. The final is at Newbury on Friday week.

3.10 (3m 3f ch) 1, OAKSEY (R Shiels, 6-5 fav); 2, Frozen Forest (Miss C Metcalfe, 15-2). ALSO RAN: 13-8 Stelzer (pu), 8 It's A Deal (ur). 4 ran. 20l. R Shiels. Tote: £1.70. DF: £5.60. CSF: £7.83.

Jury out on move to modern venue

BY RICHARD EATON

ONE of the most important All England championships in the 100-year history of the Badminton Association of England starts today. It is the first time the world's most venerable and famous tournament has been played outside London, and the first time in 39 years it has been played outside Wembley.

The association has chosen to go for the superior facilities of the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham — superior, but ultra modern, and quite unlike the traditional image of the All England. Indeed, the move brought stringent criticism from Gill Clark, the chairperson of the badminton players' federation. "A tragedy," she called it.

However, the entry for the Yonex-sponsored event is one of the largest, and, perhaps surprisingly, one of the best. Indeed, it is outstanding for a Thomas and Uber Cups year, when leading Asians have sometimes preferred to stay at home to train in conditions similar to those in which the team competitions will be held.

The defending champions, Heryanto Arbi and Susi Susanti, are here, and any tournament with Susanti in it is special. The holder of the world, Olympic, World Cup and the World Grand Prix titles, and aiming for her fourth All England singles title, she is a candidate for the accolade of the greatest women's singles player of all time.

Susanti has been spared one of the toughest first rounds for many years, against Pernille Nedergaard, the European champion. The gifted Dane has another knee injury that requires an operation, and has withdrawn.

The seedings say Ye Zhaoying, who beat Susanti in last season's Indonesian Open, is the champion's nearest rival, though it may be that another Chinese youngster, Han Jingna, who emerged from nowhere to win the Chinese Open in January, is a greater threat. Han is in Susanti's half.

The best English chance of success is in the mixed doubles, in which Gillian Gowers and Michael Sogaard, her Danish partner, are seeded second. Together they have won the Taipei and Korean Opens, and in August Gowers — in partnership with Peter Axelsson, of Sweden — became only the second English player to win a World Cup.

More important than the quality of the badminton, or even the amount of home success, will be the "feel" of this year's All England. Some have said that the tournament was synonymous with continuity, with the capital city; and with Wembley and its 1940s architecture, its seven courts and its steep rake of seats.

The Birmingham arena will be bigger and better — perhaps the best in the world. "But too clean," said Morten Frost, one of the greatest admirers of the All England's special atmosphere and four times its champion. So does the All England risk an erosion of its priceless status as the Wimbledon of the sport, or is it, by moving, merely keeping up with the times? The next few days may tell us.

THE TIMES
SNOW SERVICE

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NEWTON ABBOT

THUNDERER
2.00 Winter's Lane. 2.30 Baroness Orkzy. 3.00 Lie Detector. 3.40 Saraville. 4.15 Punchbag. 4.50 Change The Act. 5.25 Cawarra Boy.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.00 LITTLE TOWN RESTRICTED NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £1,064: 2m 5f) (8 runners)

1 0-1P BANS ON TARGET 11P (G) John Bowen 6-12-0 ... J Culloty (7)
2 P-3F JUST SILVER 13 B Rendell 8-12-0 ... B Pollock (7)
3 AFP KINGSLEY SINGER 11P Nick Bird 8-12-0 ... J Creighton (7)
4 60-P TAPSTER LAD 23P (F) Mrs S Mish 18-12-0 ... R Mills (7)
5 12-F WINTER'S LANE 32P (F,G) S Pike 10-12-0 ... M Felton (7)
6 P-PP NATIONAL GYPSY 6 J Dufosee 8-11-9 ... R Nuttall (7)
7 -PUP OH BE JOYFUL 11P N Spry 8-11-9 ... Mrs J Mills (7)
8 5-03 WALK IN THE WOODS 13 (F,S) Bob Baldry 7-11-9 ... Mrs S Palmer (7)

☐ Form figures include point-to-points

7-4 Winter's Lane, 9-4 Just Silver, 11-2 Bans On Target, 6-1 Walk In The Woods, 7-1 Tapster Lad, 16-1 National Gypsy, Oh Be Joyful, 33-1 Kingsley Singer.

2.30 TETLEY BITTER NOVICES CHASE (£2,497: 2m 110yd) (6)

1 -563 ALDAHI 16F (G) B Millman 0-11-4 ... G Burrough
2 113P BARONESS ORKZY 62 (CD,G) P Nicholls 8-11-4 Guy Lewis (5)
3 0 MERRY BENVILLE 16 R Hodges 8-11-4 ... A Tory
4 4533 NEEDS MUST 41 B Frost 7-11-4 ... B Darke (7)
5 0-6F SARFAAH 11 (G) W Muir 7-11-4 ... DOUBTFUL
6 00F4 WHYFOR 14 S Knight 8-11-4 ... D Salter (5)

6-4 Baroness Orkzy, 7-4 Needs Must, 5-1 Aldahi, 11-2 Whyfor, 10-1 Merry Benville.

3.00 CARLSBERG PILSNER NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£1,931: 2m 6f) (13)

1 0-44 CREAG DHUBH 65 M Pipe 5-11-3 ... M Foster
2 P0F5 GENERALLY JUST 20 (B) G Stickland 8-11-3 ... Mr B Stickland
3 554 GOD SPEED YOU 13 (B) C Nash 5-11-3 ... R Marley
4 F040 KELLING 27 (S) P Nicholls 7-11-3 ... Guy Lewis (5)
5 5-3 LIE DETECTOR 111 D Shinwood 8-11-3 ... J McCarthy (3)
6 00P/ RED MATCH 811 B Hodges 8-11-3 ... A Tory
7 -PPP SARACEN'S BOY 14 M Cherches 8-11-3 ... Mr B Pollock (7)
8 -233 TAKE THE BUCKSKIN 84 (G) T Thomson Jones 7-11-3 ... S Smith Eccles
9 B TULLYKYME BELLS 14 L Snook 5-11-3 ... M Hourigan
10 /0 ABSENT MINDS 141 B Young 8-10-12 ... Miss B Young
11 F30F ALICE SPRINGS 13 S Knight 5-10-12 ... C Maude
12 30P0 CADOLIVE 27 G Ham 6-10-12 ... S Mackey
13 4000 JARET SCIBS 11 N Ayliffe 0-10-12 ... D Matthews (5)

11-10 Lie Detector, 5-2 Take The Buckskin, 7-1 God Speed You, 14-1 Alice Springs, Creag Dhubh, 16-1 Generally Just, Kelling, Tullykyme Bells, 20-1 others.

3.40 CARLSBERG-TETLEY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,323: 3m 2f 110yd) (4)

1 F-23 SARAVILLE 27 (D,BF,F,G,S) M Pipe 7-11-10 ... S Smith Eccles
2 P252 RUFUS 67 (B,CD,S) B Smart 8-11-5 ... L Harvey
3 3312 SUNLEY BAY 13 (BF,G,S) P Nicholls 8-10-13 ... Guy Lewis (5)
4 FBF4 TRUSTY FRIEND 15 (CD,G,S) C Popham 12-10-0 ... C Maude

11-16 Sunley Bay, 2-1 Rufus, 5-2 Saraville, 8-1 Trusty Friend.

4.15 CARLSBERG EXPORT HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,381: 2m 6f) (8)

1 2542 MARTELL BOY 27 (BF,S) D Barons 7-11-10 ... A Tory
2 2530 SURCOAT 27 (F) R Baker 7-11-8 ... L Harvey
3 301U BLASKET HERO 48 (B,BF,F,G) Mrs S Williams 8-11-7 ... B Smith Eccles
4 6212 BUSMAN 32 (BF,S) J O'Shea 5-11-4 ... M Hourigan
5 0122 WARFIELD 27 (D,BF,S) P Nicholls 7-11-0 ... Guy Lewis (5)
6 3403 PUNCHBAG 21 (C,G,S) G Ham 8-10-12 ... C Maude
7 2500 CHICKABIDDY 27 (G) G Edwards 8-10-4 ... S Salter (5)
8 2PRR LEGAL WIN 2 (B,F) D Barons 6-10-3 ... Mr G Shenkin (7)

3-1 Blasket Hero, 7-2 Martell Boy, 4-1 Surcoat, 9-2 Busman, Punchbag, 5-1 Warfield, 14-1 Chickabiddy, 20-1 Legal Win.

4.50 CARLSBERG ELEPHANT BEER HANDICAP CHASE (£2,864: 2m 5f) (3)

1 2123 CHANGE THE ACT 78 (F,G,S) D Sherwood 0-12-0 ... J McCarthy (3)
2 4F51 HOMME D'AFFAIRE 27 (CD,F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 11-10-5 ... M Hourigan
3 25P4 VILLA RECOS 32 (F,G,S) A Barrow 8-10-4 ... S Burrough

Evens Change The Act, 7-4 Homme d'Affaire, 7-2 Villa Recos.

5.25 SWAN LIGHT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,230: 2m 1f) (8)

1 -252 CAWARRA BOY 12 C James 8-11-10 ... Mr E James (7)
2 24-0 TUMBLED BRIDE 20 (S) Mr V Greaney 8-10-7 ... C Maude
3 560 ACROSS THE BOW 103 A Dunn 4-10-4 ... M Hourigan
4 P05 TEMPLE KNIGHT 11 Miss C Johnsey 5-10-2 ... L Harvey
5 0585 JUMPING JUDGE 11 N Thomson 7-10-0 ... T Thompson (7)
6 P/Y COURTING NEWMARKET 15F Mrs A Knight 6-10-0 ... S Burrough
7 0P00 SPIRIT LEVEL 13 J Payne 8-10-0 ... Miss S Mitchell (7)
8 P0P WEST END 20 G Stickland 4-10-0 ... Mr B Stickland

4-7 Cawarra Boy, 0-1 Jumping Judge, 7-1 Temple Knight, 8-1 Across The Bow, 14-1 Courting Newmarket, West End, 16-1 Tumbled Bride, 20-1 Spirit Level.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: B O'Sullivan, 8 winners from 16 runners, 37.5%; J O'Shea, 4 from 12, 33.3%; M Pipe, 103 from 338, 30.5%; T Thomson Jones, 3 from 11, 27.3%; P Nicholls, 9 from 41, 22.0%; R Millman, 3 from 18, 16.6%.

JOCKEYS: S Smith Eccles, 3 winners from 13 rides, 23.1%; M Foster, 7 from 47, 14.9%; A Tory, 6 from 56, 14.3%; S Mackey, 4 from 30, 13.3%; L Harvey, 7 from 60, 11.7%; C Maude, 11 from 96, 11.5%.

THUNDERER
2.10 Hearts Are Wild. 2.40 Batty's Island. 3.10 Avonburn. 3.50 Nirvana Prince. 4.25 Martha's Son. 4.55 Marsh's Law.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.10 ISLAND HALL NOVICES CHASE (£2,577: 2m 4f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 -441 BALLY PARSON 13 (G) (D) J Clugg 8-11-9 ... A Thornton (5) [illegible]
2 1-21 HEARTS ARE WILD 118 (F,G) (D) T Forster 7-11-9 ... B Powell 97
3 F56U FLUTTER MONEY 8 (B,S) J Kirby 10-11-2 ... G Upton 77
4 P-P GLEN PENNANT 41 T Ellingston 7-11-2 ... N Mann –
5 4/ INTERPLAY 1196 (B,S) (T199) B O'Sullivan 8-11-2 ... D O'Sullivan –
6 RP-P JACK DIAMOND 139 Mrs B Williams 6-11-2 ... V Smith –
7 JUST MAX 354P D Geraghty 10-11-2 ... J Supple (5) –
8 05 TRUE SHADE 11 (F,G) G Vergette 8-11-2 ... B Dalton 83
9 0-34 VITAL WITNESS 26 (S) K Morgan 7-11-2 ... A B Smith 98
10 4/-U SUNCIA 5 Mrs L Taylor 10-10-11 ... P Ward (7) –

10-11 Hearts Are Wild, 9-4 Bally Parson, 5-1 Vital Witness, 14-1 Interplay, True Shade, 20-1 Flutter Money, 25-1 Just Max, Suncia, 33-1 others.

2.40 ELLINGTON NOVICES HURDLE (£2,107: 2m 110yd) (6)

1 011P BATTY'S ISLAND 36 (G) B Preece 5-11-2 ... T Wall –
2 FP CAP DIAMANT 12F J Jenkins 8-11-2 ... W J Walsh (7) –
3 COLONEL CLOETE 7 Forster 8-11-2 ... B Farrant (3) –
4 44 LYPHANTASTIC 11 C Mann 5-11-2 ... J R Kavanagh [illegible]
5 655- PETTAUGH 424 F Murphy 8-11-2 ... A Thornton (5) 75
6 U OPALKINO 13 G Barnett 9-10-11 ... S Wynne (3) –

4-7 Lyphantastic, 3-1 Batty's Island, 8-1 Pettaugh, 8-1 Colonel Cloete, 20-1 Opalkino, 33-1 Cap Diamant.

3.10 COUNTRY LANDOWNERS ASSOCIATION HANDICAP CHASE (£3,444: 3m) (6)

1 /65 CUDDY DALE 35 (F,B,S) (CD) F Murphy 11-11-11 J Kavanagh –
2 2128 AVONBURN 18 (F,G,S) (D) P Hedger 10-11-5 ... D O'Sullivan 94
3 3PF0 ICARUS 11 (F,G) (B) D Brown 8-11-1 ... Mr A Richards 98
4 BF22 DRAGONS DEN 20 (F,G) (D) S Sherwood 8-10-7 A Thornton (5) 92
5 050- EBONY SWELL 407 (G,S) (D) S Campion 13-10-2 P Midgley (5) 80
6 2232 MANDER'S WAY 12 (G,S) (D) Mrs T Skinner 0-10-2 ... G Upton [illegible]

2-1 Dragons Den, 5-2 Avonburn, 7-2 Mander's Way, 0-2 Cuddy Dale, 10-1 Icarus, 18-1 Ebony Swell.

3.50 GREAT PAXTON NOVICES HURDLE (£1,892: 2m 5f 110yd) (12)

1 113 NEFARIOUS 49 (G,S) M Campion 8-11-12 ... L Dace (7) 83
2 1112 NIRVANA PRINCE 46 (F) (D) B Prince 5-11-12 ... T Wall [illegible]
3 GENERAL EDDIE 6 Geraghty 10-11-2 ... G Cerran (5) –
4 GILLAN COVE R Alner 5-11-2 ... B Earle –
5 -055 MAN O MINE 79 (F) F Murphy 5-11-2 ... J R Kavanagh 76
6 P0P4 NIGHT FANCY 0 Mrs A Woodrow 8-11-2 ... P McLoughlin (7) 76
7 354- SPIRITUALIST 298 Mrs G Plowright 8-11-2 ... A Thornton (5) 73
8 05 SUMLA BAY 7 B Brennan 6-11-2 ... M Brennan 64
9 0P THE GREY TEXAN 55 P Makin 5-11-2 ... Richard Guest –
10 4F6 HENRY'S SISTER 21 M Wilkinson 7-10-11 ... P Ward (7) 69
11 U/0 LADY OF ROME 36 J Sheehan 7-10-11 ... J Supple (5) –
12 000 WESTRAY 137 D Wellicome 4-10-7 ... A Carroll –

8-13 Nirvana Prince, 5-1 Nefarious, 0-1 Spots Boy, 12-1 Man O Mine, 14-1 Gillan Cove, Henry's Sister, 10-1 General Eddie, Night Fancy, 20-1 others.

4.25 HARTFORD NOVICES CHASE (£2,401: 2m 110yd) (4)

1 -1FF AMTRAK EXPRESS 14 (F,G,S) (BF) N Henderson 7-11-8 ... J Kavanagh 92
2 4211 MARTHA'S SON 46 (F,G,S) (CD) T Forster 7-11-8 R Farrant (3) [illegible]
3 4-60 JIMMY THE GILLE 102 (F,G,S) S Christian 8-11-1 ... G Upton –
4 -030 PHARGOLD 49 (F) R Emery 5-10-7 ... T Wall –

4-6 Martha's Son, 11-8 Amtrak Express, 18-1 Jimmy The Gille, 18-1 Phargold.

4.55 BUCKDEN PALACE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,408: 2m 110yd) (10)

1 0/0- APPLIANCEOFSCIENCE 25F (G) (D) K Wingrove 7-11-10 ... J Ryan –
2 -325 MASNUN 53F (BF) B O'Sullivan 6-11-0 ... D O'Sullivan 63
3 /P5- SANTARAY 489 (G,S) (D) T Donnelly 8-11-0 ... T Eley (3) –
4 1-04 MARSH'S LAW 6 (G,S) (D) D Brennan 7-11-7 ... M Brennan 85
5 35-0 ROCK LEGEND 12F J Sheehan 8-11-2 ... J Supple (5) 83
6 -00P EXPLORATION 54 (F) K Morgan 7-11-0 ... A S Smith 83
7 0-63 WILL JAMES 9 (F,S) (B,D) C Drewe 8-10-13 ... I Lawrence 80
8 3551 SHAMSHOM AL ARAB 4 (F,G) (D) J Jenkins 0-10-11 (7ex) ... Miss V Haigh (7) [illegible]
9 -024 THE CAN CAN MAN 41 J Mooney 7-10-1 ... M Robinson 86
10 6-04 COOL SOCIETY 75F W Musson 5-10-0 ... N Mann 65

2-1 Shamshom Al Arab, 5-1 Masnun, 8-1 The Can Can Man, Will James, 13-2 Marsh's Law, 8-1 Santaray, 14-1 Applianceofscience, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Etherington, 5 winners from 17 runners, 29.4%; N Henderson, 7 from 36, 19.4%; F Murphy, 24 from 142, 16.9%; T Forster, 7 from 48, 14.6%; K Morgan, 6 from 44, 13.6%; K Wingrove, 4 from 31, 12.9%.

JOCKEYS: G Upton, 3 winners from 13 rides, 23.1%; J Ryan, 6 from 35, 22.9%; A Carroll, 3 from 18, 16.7%; A S Smith, 5 from 38, 13.2%; Richard Guest, 6 from 48, 12.5%; Only qualifiers.

☐ The 50-1 and 20-1 winners on Cheltenham's opening day contributed to the jackpot not being won, and a pool of £172,127 is carried over to today.

THUNDERER
2.25 Doc Spot. 2.55 Integrity Boy. 3.25 Bad Trade. 3.55 Morgans Harbour. 4.30 Tresidder. 5.00 Marwell.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.25 SEDGEFIELD CRICKET CLUB MAIDEN HURDLE (4-Y-O: £1,905: 2m 1f 110yd) (9 runners)

1 5040 COMMANCHE CREEK 8 J Hellens 11-0 ... A Lamach (3)
2 00 DOC SPOT 11 J S Wilson 11-0 ... D Byrne
3 6 SEVERE STORM 12 Miss J Rae 11-0 ... F Perratt (5)
4 4430 SOLOMAN SPRINGS 39 Mrs V Ward 11-0 ... B Storey
5 60 THALEROS 61 (BF) G Moore 11-0 ... J Callaghan
6 000P TODDEN B J Hellens 11-0 ... D Ryan (7)
7 2333 LA VILLA ROSE 7 J Payne 10-9 ... A Dobbin
8 B ONE FOR TONDY 7 (B) N Bycroft 10-9 ... B Turner
9 36 SHARKASHKA 54 (BF) M H Easterby 10-9 ... L Wyer

7-4 Sharkashka, 4-1 La Villa Rose, 5-1 Thaleros, 11-2 Soloman Springs, 13-2 Doc Spot, 12-1 Commanche Creek, 10-1 One For Tondy, 33-1 Severe Storm, Todden.

2.55 DUN COW HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,180: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

1 U516 CHIEF RAIDER 14 (D,G,S) J Wade 8-11-11 ... K Jones
2 P023 HUSO 8 (F) P Hedden 6-10-4 ... Mr C Bonner (7)
3 1123 VERY EVIDENT 8 (C,S) G Moore 5-10-3 ... J Callaghan
4 -060 KIR 18 (B,F,G) V Thompson 8-10-2 ... A Dobbin
5 0432 INTEGRITY BOY 36 (B,CD,F,G,S) R O'Leary 7-10-2 ... L Wyer
6 4-62 RED JAM JAR 153 (F) C Bell 0-10-0 ... K Johnson
7 064- TV PITCH 269 (C,F) D Lee 6-10-0 ... W Dwan
8 P0-0 SOME DO NOT 32 (D,F,G) W Storey 10-10-0 ... A Maughan
9 5040 MR FERWICK 18 (F,G,S) J Eyre 10-10-0 ... B Storey

11-4 Very Evident, 3-1 Integrity Boy, 4-1 Huso, 7-1 Chief Raider, 8-1 Red Jam Jar, 10-1 Kir, 12-1 TV Pitch, 20-1 Mr Ferwick, Some Do Not.

3.25 GOLDEN LION HANDICAP CHASE (£2,768: 2m 5f) (4)

1 1F3U NO MORE TRIX 11 (CD,G,S) T Tate 8-11-16 ... L Wyer
2 P4P2 BAD TRADE 8 (G,S) G Alder 12-10-9 ... T Reed
3 330- RARE FIRE 432 (G) Mrs M Rowley 10-10-4 ... N Smith
4 -U05 COSMIC RAY 6 (B,C,F,G,S) Mrs V Acenley 0-10-1 W McFarland

5-6 No More Trix, 2-1 Rare Fire, 11-4 Bad Trade, 7-1 Cosmic Ray.

3.55 SOCIAL CLUB NOVICES CHASE (£2,445: 3m 3f) (6)

1 2-12 MORGANS HARBOUR 27 (BF,CD,S) Mrs M Rowley 8-11-8 ... L Wyer
2 -PIP LADY BLAKENEY 47 (G) B Rothwell 8-11-3 ... A Dobbin
3 P544 IRISH GENT 7 (B,F) P Chesbrough 8-11-2 ... K Johnson
4 2325 MOYODE REGENT 76 R Lamb 10-11-2 ... Mr A Meenan (7)
5 4250 SHELTON ABBEY 36 (F,G,S) J Wade 8-11-2 ... K Jones
6 3P5P RUSHING BURN 41 J Charlton 8-10-11 ... B Storey

5-4 Morgans Harbour, 3-1 Lady Blakeney, 9-2 Moyode Regent, 8-1 Irish Gent, 7-1 Shelton Abbey, 10-1 Rushing Burn.

4.30 CEDDESFELD HALL HANDICAP CHASE (£2,807: 2m 1f) (7)

1 1233 TRESIDDER 33 (BF,CD,F,G,S) M W Easterby 12-12-0 ... Mr S Swiers
2 633F SILVER HAZE 77 (BF,D,F,S) J Wade 18-11-2 ... K Jones
3 -2F6 HAPPY BREED S (D,G,S) M H Easterby 11-11-1 ... L Wyer
4 035P ORCHIPEDZO 133 (F) C Cowley 9-10-12 ... Judy Davies (7)
5 3343 ACHILTIBUIE 188 (C,F) F Yardley 16-10-7 ... W McFarland
6 6535 HEIR OF EXCITEMENT 99 (V,G) A Stringer 8-10-0 A Lamach (3)
7 2064 BALLYBELL 16 J Gledson 8-10-0 ... B Storey

9-4 Tresidder, 5-1 Silver Haze, 11-2 Happy Breed, 6-1 Achiltibuie, Heir Of Excitement, 12-1 Ballybell, Orchipedzo.

5.00 CROSSHILL HOTEL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,821: 2m 5f 110yd) (9)

1 3136 GYMCRAK DAWN 18 (B,G) J Hetherton 8-11-18 ... P Harley
2 565 DUNRISDY BAY 49 J Wade 8-11-3 ... P Williams (3)
3 6606 KINDA GROOVY 32 I Park 5-11-2 ... N Smith
4 2523 HIGH PENHOWE 32 Mrs V Acenley 8-11-1 ... D Byrne
5 60-4 WHY NOT EQUIMAME 41 J Johnson 8-11-0 ... A Dobbin
6 1334 LAFANTA 6 (G) J Wade 5-10-11 ... K Jones
7 0410 MANWELL 39 (CD,S) B Temple 7-10-9 ... L Wyer
8 P-F6 CARLA ADAMS 6 W Storey 6-10-0 ... K Johnson
9 0B5P DOCTOR DUNKLIN 84 Mrs V Ward 5-10-0 ... B Storey

4-1 Gymcrak Dawn, 9-2 Lafanta, 5-1 Why Not Equimame, 6-1 Dunrisdy Bay, Manwell, 8-1 High Penhowe, Kinda Groovy, 10-1 Carla Adams, 33-1 Doctor Dunklin.

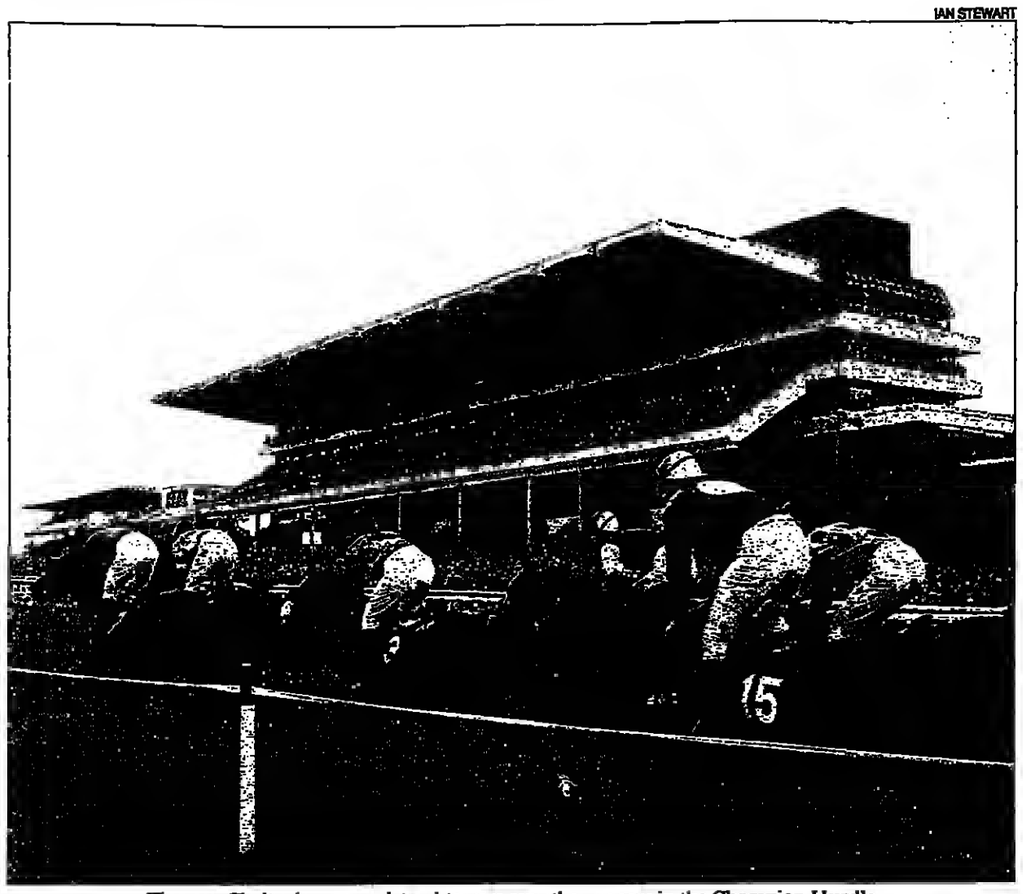
COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: T Tate, 8 winners from 20 runners, 40.0%; Mrs M Rowley, 62 from 193, 32.1%; M H Easterby, 22 from 85, 25.9%; J Hellens, 11 from 51, 21.6%; G Moore, 30 from 143, 21.0%; P Chesbrough, 8 from 18, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: L Wyer, 24 winners from 108 rides, 22.2%; J Callaghan, 19 from 114, 16.7%; A Lamach, 10 from 60, 16.7%; F Perratt, 3 from 18, 16.7%; D Byrne, 8 from 51, 11.8%; Only qualifiers.

☐ There was controversy at Sedgefield yesterday, when local permit holder John Wade was upset by fellow trainer David McCune. The latter incurred Wade's anger by claiming Over The Odds for £6,240 after the Monkey Puzzle Selling Handicap Hurdle.

IAN STEWART



The new Cheltenham grandstand towers over the runners in the Champion Hurdle

Winning is what matters

Jamie Osborne, who captured his third Arkle, reflects on a display full of promise in the Champion

BEFORE the Champion Hurdle we knew Large Action needed to improve by 21lh to win. In the end he only managed 18 — it was that close. We finished third but I was delighted with him. I'm just disapponted with the result. He ran as well as we hoped, particularly as he was having only his sixth race over hurdles.

The pace in the early part of the race was not as strong as I anticipated. Consequently, we only really raced from halfway round. I sat within my cruising speed in second place, four or five lengths off Valfinet, the leader. I'd have been pressing too hard to get any closer; I'd have actually been shovelling the coal on at that stage.

No matter how you want a race to be run, you must keep a horse within its cruising speed as they can only run beyond that for a short length of time. But I knew the pace was not strong and we would all quicken up at the top of the hill, before the third-last. As I suspected, Large Action was flat to the boards from that point. It was to his credit that he kept going all the way to the line.

He travelled well throughout the race and he jumped well when it mattered. It got a bh tight before the second-last but he's such a gutsy horse that he just forced his way through. He met the second-last on a long stride and he was very professional; he had a real go. I pinched a lead of a length, and at that stage I thought I could steal the race. I asked him a big question at the last and again, he jumped it really well. We actually went with Flakey Dove until half way up the hill.

This horse is so tough. I guarantee he will eat up tonight and he will be out having a buck in the morning. I've got a real soft spot for him and he proved my confidence was not misplaced. I'm sure he would have won the novices' race. *But if we'd done that and* then watched Flakey Dove win the Champion, we would have always regretted not taking her on.

Having said that, a winner is so much better than a third, no maner what the race is. To be perfectly honest, I would rather win a novice hurdle round Plumpton than be third in the Champion Hurdle. Nakir was my third Arkle Chase winner in a row: I've just been lucky to be on the right horse.

I was a little bit worried early on in the race. He was slow over the first two fences. I thought I would be outpaced all the way but he really grew in stature as the race developed. So much so that I was confident of winning at the top of the hill.

That was my eighth festival winner and it was a fantastic feeling. They are all special; every one is as good as the next. Having said that, it would be nice to win the Gold Cup or the Champion Hurdle. Perhaps we can do that with *Large Action next year.*

I'm now looking forward to riding Travado in the Champion Chase. I have also ridden Remittance Man. Of the two, I think Travado is open to more improvement. Remittance Man takes time to quicken but Travado does it almost immediately and his speed might just be decisive.

But it's not just about these two. You can never rule out Deep Sensation. And Viking Flagship, on this dead ground, is a rough, tough horse. He will be hard to pass, but I feel *Remittance Man and Travado* have that extra little bit of class that the others lack. I'm sweet on Travado: I think he's got an outstanding chance.

Arctic Kinsman belies 50-1 odds

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

ARCTIC Kinsman's 50-1 success in the opening Citroen Supreme Novices' Hurdle had form students and a stunned Cheltenham crowd shaking their heads in disbelief. The one person not surprised was his trainer, Nigel Twiston-Davies, who had invested £10 on the winner.

Despite having endured 33 days since his last success, he said: "If you go through the form, it is not surprising at all. It didn't take much brain to work it out. Our best horses have not been running and we have been waiting for Cheltenham. It was firm when be ran at Doncaster and the track was too tight at Kempton last time."

Sound Man and Winter Belle, the two leading Irish novices, were sent off first and second favourites but both ran disappointingly, finishing eighth and tenth respectively. The result calls into question the value of Irish novice form and places a question mark against Danoli in today's Sun Alliance Hurdle.

Arctic Kinsman had been well beaten in his two previous races by horses he reopposed yesterday, but his jockey, Carl Llewelyn, was looking round for non-existent dangers on the run-in and was able to ease his mount down in the final 50 yards. "I was waiting for them at the last flight, but when I jumped it I could not hear anything," the winning jockey said as he unsaddled. "I looked round for them and they weren't there. I was very surprised and extremely happy."

Happiness, though not surprise, was also etched firmly on the face of Simon Christian after Nakir won the Guinness Arkle Chase a shade comfortably from Baydon Star, the 5-2 favourite.

Christian, who won the same race with Oregon Trail in 1986 and saddled Henry Mann to win the Coral Golden Hurdle in 1990, has never lacked talent but has had to endure a miserable time of late due to the virus affecting his horses.

Nakir was a useful hurdler in France when trained by Emmanuel Chevalier du Fau at Chantilly. Bloodstock agent Pierre Charles le Metayer recommended the horse to Christian as a nice animal who would jump English fences.

Christian said: "He was a good horse in France and in all the video tapes he jumped the French hurdles like Britisb fences. I thought this horse could just be something more than a handicapper."

After favourite backers had suffered bad reverses in the opening three races, they finally hit the mark when Antonin defied top weight to take the Ritz Club Chase. If Sue Bramall's chaser continues his remarkable improvement he will be a Gold Cup contender next year.

Thiry five minutes later,the Josh Gifford-trained Fighting Words also justified his market-leader status when be won a thrilling dnel with The Committee by the narrowest margin and then survived a stewards' enquiry.

However, the biggest gamble of the day came badly unstuck in the concluding Hamlet Cigars Gold Card Handicap Hurdle Final when Gimme Five, owned by the legendary punter J P McManus, failed to justify the avalanche of money which saw his price tumble in the betting ring. In another thrilling finish, Tindari got up in the final stride to beat the top weight, Dark Honey.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Cheltenham

Going: good to soft

2.15 CITROEN SUPREME NOVICES HURDLE (Grade 1: £35,908: 2m 110yd)

ARCTIC KINSMAN gr g Relkino - Arctic Advert (Mrs R Hambro) 6-11-8 C Llewellyn (50-1) 1.

Pridwell b g Sadler's Wells - Glowing With Pride (Pond House Racing) 4-11-0 J Lower (14-1) 2.

Dreams End ch h Rainbow Quest - Be Easy (T Price) 8-11-8 Peter Hobbs (12-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Sound Man, 4 Winter Belle, 10 Burna Boy (6th), 12 Aryouk, Scobie Boy, 14 Cumbrian Challenge (4th), 20 Fatback, Gales Cavalier (pu), 25 Reluctant Suitor, 28 Super Coin (5th), 33 Duke Of Eurolink, Marros Mill, 50 Bold Stroke, Paradise Navy, 200 Kenmore-Speed (pu). 18 ran. 8l, 3½l, 4l, ½l, ½l. N Twiston-Davies at Cheltenham. Tote: £66.20; £12.10, £2.90, £3.50. DF: £489.60. Tno: £2,043.10. CSF: £535.66.

2.50 GUINNESS ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY CHASE (Grade 1: £43,290: 2m)

NAKIR b g Nikos - Nabita (J Lowe) 6-11-8 J Osborne (9-1) 1.

Baydon Star br g Mandalus - Lauza (Mrs S Robins) 7-11-8 A Maguire (5-2 fav) 2.

Southolt b g Deep Run - Grisedch (G Hubbard) 6-11-8 D Bridgwater (33-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 7-2 Coonawara (fl), 5 Arone (4th), 6 Thumbs Up (bd), 12 Country Lad (6th), 16 One More Dream (pu), 20 Mubaade (5th), 100 Kibreal (pu). 10 ran. NR: Current Express. 8l, 1½l, 2½l, 15l, 1l. S Christian at Kinnersley. Tote: £8.30; £1.80, £1.60, £4.20. DF: £11.70. Tno: £121.10. CSF: £29.21.

3.30 CHAMPION HURDLE (2m 110yd) — see page 48

4.05 RITZ CLUB NATIONAL HUNT HANDICAP CHASE (£31,045: 3m 1f)

ANTONIN ch g Italic - Pin Up (M Stanners) 8-11-5 J Burke (4-1 fav) 1.

Flashthecash b g Torus - Easter Beauty (Dr G Madan Mohan) 8-10-6 J Frost (14-1) 2.

Grange Brake B b g Over The River - Arctic Brilliance (Mrs J Mould) 8-10-0 C Llewellyn (16-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 9-2 Ushers Island (4th), 5 Strong Beau, 7 Whaat Fettle (pu), 11 Indian Tonic (4th), Spongelea (pu), 12 Rockfar (un), 16 Roc De Prince (5th), 100 Complete Optimist (pu). 11 ran. NR: Rydo Again. 10l, 1½l, 2l, 15l, 12l. Mrs S Bramall at Thirsk. Tote: £3.80; £1.80, £2.60, £3.90. DF: £27.10. Tno: £203.80. CSF: £48.70. Tricast: £696.49.

4.40 FULKE WALWYN KIM MURI CHALLENGE CUP HANDICAP CHASE (Amateurs: £17,636: 3m 1f)

FIGHTING WORDS ch g Prince Bee - How Hostile (Pell-mell Partners) 8-10-0 T McCarthy (9-2 fav) 1.

The Committee b g Deming Rose - What A Whet (D Gunn) 11-10-3 P McMahon (10-1) 2.

Tri Folene b m Nebos - Jetty (D L'Estrange) 8-9-7 N Moore (11-1) 3.

ALSO RAN: 13-2 Far Senior (pu), 8 Over The Deal (pu), Rattavanden House (pu), 9 Commercial Arms (pu), 10 Another Cora, 11 Stunning Stuff (4th), 14 Windy Ways (4th), 16 Catch The Cross (5th), 25 Hew Haten, 33 Fiddlers Pike, Tochenelka (un), 50 Off The Bru (pu). 15 ran. Sh hd, 20l, 5l, 1l, 15l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £4.60; £1.90, £4.30, £2.30. DF: £41.30. Tno: £231.00. CSF: £45.61. Tricast: £433.52.

5.15 HAMLET CIGARS GOLD CARD HANDICAP HURDLE FINAL (£23,052: 3m 2f)

TINDARI ch g Vacarme - Yseult (Yorkshire Racing Club Owners Group) 8-10-9 P Williams (20-1) 1.

Dark Honey b g Marechal - Calibu (R Sayer) 9-12-0 A Dicken (20-1) 2.

Kilgarriff ch g Le Bavard - Negrada (B Perry) 8-10-2 P Harley (20-1) 3.

Rimouski b h Sure Blade - Rimosa's Pet (B Cambidge) 6-10-0 Mr J Cambidge (25-1) 4.

ALSO RAN: 4-1 fav Gimme Five, 9 Aahsayad, Brave Buccaneer, Sendal, 12 Newton Point, Northants, 14 Captain Dotford, Castigliero (5th), 16 Miss Purbeck (fl), Steel Dawn (fur), 20 Beau Bastillard, Polishing, 25 Everaldo (pu), Gray's Energy, Peatswood, 33 Dumer Blanc, Fox Chase, Kabayl, Linkside, Montagnard, 50 Corsico (6th), Island Jewel, Judges Force, Master Major, Sea Buck, Troodos (pu), 66 Broughton's Tango, Rochestown Lass. 30 ran. Sh hd, 1l, 15l, 5l, 3½l. J Jefferson at Malton. Tote: £30.10; £5.90, £5.20, £3.50, £17.40. DF: £401.40. Tno: £8,979.80. CSF: £983.68. Tricast: £7,161.61.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £172,123.62 carried forward to Cheltenham today).

Placepot: £2,177.00.

Sedgefield

Going: good to firm

2.00 (3m 2f 110yd hdle) 1. Classic Statement (A Lamach, 8-1); 2. Over The Odds (4-1 fav); 3. Lady Be Brave (12-1). 12 ran. 7l, 8l. J Hellens. Tote: £7.10; £2.30, £1.50, £4.90. DF: £23.90. Tno: £170.60. CSF: £55.51. Tricast: £344.06.

2.35 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1. Bend Sable (B Storey, 5-6 fav); 2. Midnight Rebel (20-1); 3. Russian Castle (11-2). 8 ran. 2l, 10l. F Storey. Tote: £1.50; £1.20, £6.50, £1.30. DF: £10.30. CSF: £15.54.

3.10 (3m 2f chase) — see facing page

3.45 (2m 1f cnh) 1. Clares Own (K Jones, 10-1); 2. Military Honour (13-8 fav); 3. Trimble Girl (9-2). 5 ran. 4l, 3½l. J Wade. Tote: £14.30; £3.30, £2.10. DF: £6.50. CSF: £25.21.

4.20 (2m 5f cnh) 1. Mayor Of Liscarrol (G Harker, 7-2); 2. Mac (6-1); 3. Knissos (20-1). Neep Bridging (11-10 fav 1f) 9 ran. NR: Clarinata. Dist: 3l, 3l. M Smith. Tote: £2.90; £1.10, £2.10, £4.70. DF: £17.90. CSF: £26.17.

4.50 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1. Otter Bush (D Tower, 16-1); 2. Sounds Golden (6-1); 3. Hazel Creek (14-1). Iqab 7-2 fav. 11 ran. ½l, nk. Mrs S Smith. Tote: £29.90; £5.70, £3.50, £7.70. DF: £49.10. Tno: not won. CSF: £122.05. Tricast: £1,265.96.

Placepot: £211.20.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.05 (1m 3f) 1. Westfield Moves (C Hawksley, 4-1); 2. Modest Hope (7-1); 3. Fairyland Flyer (6-1). Keep Your Distance 3 fav. 14 ran. Sh hd, 3l. H Collingridge. Tote: £4.70; £2.00, £3.40, £3.30. DF: £25.20. Tno: £179.70. CSF: £41.92. Tricast: £176.15.

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Viking Flagship to relish battle

FESTIVAL GUIDE

2.15: Danoli, the Irish banker, brings with him impeccable credentials and is sure to be all the rage. He holds Coq Hardi Affair and may well win, but his likely odds do not make him an attractive proposition. **Brief Gale** can make a bold bid to keep the prize at home. She should thrive on the fast pace. Top Spin, Morceli and Corrouge are others who will enjoy the likely furious gallop.

2.50: **Viking Flagship** is the one to be on in a vintage renewal of the Queen Mother Champion Chase. He has made tremendous strides this season, as he demonstrated with a battling Newbury defeat of Wonder Man, Sybillin and Deep Sensation, the defending champion. He would prefer softer ground but he is a tough, progressive chaser who will relish the uphill finish. Sybillin, a big danger at his best, does not appear suited to this course and bigger threats are the stablemates, Travado and Remittance Man. Of the pair Remittance Man, winner of this race two years ago, is the more attractive proposition. While his class is not in doubt, this trip is the bare minimum and he may have to settle for a minor placing.

3.30: Viardot bolted up last week in preparation for this. He looks sure to go well in a bookmakers' benefit. Olympian and Lemon's Mill ran badly at Sandown on Saturday and make no appeal. One who does is **Jeassu**, laid out for this race all season by Jim Wilson. He saw too much daylight at Warwick last time and is better judged on his defeat of Lusty Lad in December.

4.05: Graham Bradley, the regular rider of both Belvederian and See More Indians, has chosen the latter today. Unbeaten in five chases, See More Indians is deceptive in that he never does more than necessary. He holds Crystal Spirit on earlier form but the fact that he usually makes at least one bad blunder means he is worth opposing. One Man, a natural at this game, loves to force the pace but will be compromised by Honest Word, another confirmed front-runner. Preference is for **Monsieur Le Cure**, an improving young stayer who likes this course.

4.40: **Front Line** will be the banker bet of the meeting for many. Laid out for this race by Jonjo O'Neill and ridden by Enda Bolger, Ireland's top point-to-point rider, the only question concerns his ability to stay this four-mile trip. He undoubtedly has the best form, and at Newcastle in November he was staying on strongly over three miles when falling at the last. His breeding and style of running suggests he will have sufficient stamina. The obvious threat is Durham Sunset, who has taken well to fences. Howard Johnson's mare could provide some each-way value. Ultra Flutter is best of the Irish runners.

5.15: Nevada Gold, sixth in the King George and previously a remarkable winner at Uttoxeter when left at the start, is thrown in here on that form. But a 79-day absence from the racecourse does not inspire confidence. A better bet is **Gnome's Tycoon**, who failed to stay three miles at Doncaster last time, but previously looked impressive when winning over 2½ miles. Fourth Of July heads the Irish challenge, but may prefer softer ground.

5.50: There are more tips for this race than are to be found in a certain brand of tea. Three against the field are last year's winner Rhythm Section, Bear Claw, the pick of David Nicholson's strong hand, and **Sovereign Choice** who is well regarded by Dermot Weld.

RICHARD EVANS
JULIAN MUSCAT

CHELTENHAM

THUNDERER

2.15 Pondering
2.50 Remittance Man
3.30 Viardot
4.05 Crystal Spirit
4.40 Front Line
5.15 GNOME'S TYCOON (nap)
5.50 Gambolling Doc

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 DANOLI.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,B,S) (Mrs D Robinson) D Hall 12-0 ..... B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell, P — pulled up, U — unseated rider, B — brought down, S — slipped up, R — refused, D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: F if flat, (B — blinkers, V — visor, H — hood, E — Eyeshield, C — course winner, D — distance winner, CD — course and distance winner, BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good in firm, hard, G — good, S — soft, good in soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS

2.15 SUN ALLIANCE NOVICES HURDLE (Grade I: £39,504: 2m 5f) (24 runners) — BBC1

101 21112 BAY MISCHIEF 57 (BF,F,S) (J Featherstone, D Bird) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-7 ..... M Dwyer 67
102 5-31P23 BOOK OF MUSIC 14 (C,BF,S) (Mrs D Lourada) J Gifford 8-11-7 ..... P Hide 73
103 123112 COQ HARDI AFFAIR 31 (G,S) (Mrs C Howard) N Meade (Ire) 6-11-7 ..... P Carberry 73
104 1F2213 CORROUGE 46 (D,BF,G,S) (M Gates) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-7 ..... C Llewellyn 83
105 1-11321 DANOLI 31 (G,S) (D O'Neill) J Foley (Ire) 6-11-7 ..... C Swan (5) 88
106 024121 DIVINE CHANCE 27 (D,S) (R Morris-Adams) N Gaselee 8-11-7 ..... R Supple 50
107 222111 DORANS PRIDE 24 (S) (T Doran) M Hourigan (Ire) 5-11-7 ..... J P Broderick 86
108 432122 EMPIRE BLUE 27 (G) (Mrs H Intes) J Besley 11-11-7 ..... M Bosley 56
109 1-P14 FINE THYME 54 (F,S) (P Weagard) G Harwood 5-11-7 ..... M Perrett 52
110 3-16221 HAWAIIAN YOUTH 28 (G,S) (G Redford) R Rowe 8-11-7 ..... G McCourt 66
111 12154 KEMMORE-SPEED 9 (BF,F,S) (K Dacker) Mrs S Smith 7-11-7 ..... Richard Guest 53
112 1-11P1 LE GMINO 7 (G,S) (Irish World Partnership) C Brooks 7-11-7 ..... G Bradley 84
113 P-43332 MAD THYME 36 (BF) (R Janke) N Gaselee 7-11-7 ..... J Frost 69
114 213141 MAN TO MAN 14 (G) (S Clarke) F Doumen (Fr) 7-11-7 ..... A Kondret 74
115 3-13101 MORCELI 12 (B,S) (Mrs J Corbett) J Johnson 6-11-7 ..... D J Moffatt 85
116 23-11F1 RIVER LOSSIE 42 (B,G,S) (Brasher) C Egerton 5-11-7 ..... J Osborne 88
117 1/213-21 STRONG CASE 19 (B,S) (Mrs L Sowell) M Pipe 6-11-7 ..... J Lower 61
118 211321 TOP SPIN 19 (D,F,G,S) (J Long) J Jenkins 5-11-7 ..... A Maguire 82
119 001214 TOTHEWOODS 39 (D,S) (Mrs C Scott) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-7 ..... B Bridgwater 65
120 111/121 BRIEF GALE 34 (G,S) (Miss C Zetter) J Gifford 7-11-2 ..... D Murphy 83
121 5-1151 ELAINE TULLY 19 (D,S) (Mrs P Wilkins) P Hobbs 8-11-2 ..... Peter Hobbs 78
122 531213 WHAT A QUESTION 31 (G,S) (Mrs M Valentine) M Morris (Ire) 6-11-2 ..... G Bradley 87
123 111 PONDERING 58 (V,G,S) (M Pipe) M Pipe 4-10-12 ..... M A Fitzgerald 75
124 1351 SPRING MARATHON 13 (C,S) (Mrs N Duffield) Mrs P Duffield 4-10-12 ..... P Holley 88

BETTING: 11-8 Danoli, 10-1 Brief Gale, 12-1 Coq Hardi Affair, Dorans Pride, Morceli, 14-1 Corrouge, 16-1 Man To Man, Pondering, Top Spin, 20-1 Elaine Tully, West A Question, 25-1 Mad Thyme, River Lossie, 33-1 others.

1993: GAELSTROM 6-11-2 C Llewellyn (16-1) N Twiston-Davies 19 ran

FORM FOCUS

CORROUGE beat TOP SPIN 4l in 14-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, good to soft) with MAD THYME (7lb worse off) 2½l 3rd. DANOLI beat COQ HARDI AFFAIR 10l in 7-runner conditions hurdle at Leopardstown (2m 2f, heavy) with WHAT A QUESTION 25l 3rd.
DORANS PRIDE beat Killala Venture ½l in 7-runner listed novice hurdle at Punchestown (2m 2f 110yd, soft). MORCELI beat Five To Seven 12l in 19-runner novice hurdle at Kelso (2m 2f, soft). TOP SPIN beat Ealing Court 1l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Kempton (2m 5f, soft). BRIEF GALE beat Canal Street 12l in 18-runner novice hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, good to soft).
WHAT A QUESTION beat Dee Ell 5l in 5-runner novice hurdle at Leopardstown (2m 6f, soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: DANOLI

2.50 QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (Grade I: £74,381: 2m) (8 runners) — BBC1

201 222142 DEEP SENSATION 10 (CD,F,G,S) (R Elliott) J Gifford 9-12-0 ..... D Murphy 90
202 2233-F1 KATABATIC 95 (CD,F,G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 11-12-0 ..... S McNeill 97
203 111/11-1 REMITTANCE MAN 18 (CD,F,G,S) (J Collins) N Henderson 10-12-0 ..... M A Fitzgerald 98
204 229P34 SPACE FAIR 18 (CD,F,G,S) (Osborne House Ltd) R Lee 11-12-0 ..... P Niven 95
205 113-133 SYBILLIN 32 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Marquesa de Moratalla) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-12-0 .. M Dwyer 87
206 11-114F TRAVADO 79 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs M Enevoy) N Henderson 8-12-0 ..... J Osborne 96
207 11-2211 VIKING FLAGSHIP 32 (D,F,G,S) (Rocca Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 7-12-0 ..... A Maguire (5)
208 2-22223 WONDER MAN 18 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs S Rubery) D Nicholson 8-12-0 ..... C Swan 89

BETTING: 5-2 Travado, 11-4 Remittance Man, 9-2 Viking Flagship, 5-1 Deep Sensation, 8-1 Sybillin, 12-1 Katabatic, 20-1 Wonder Man, 66-1 Space Fair

1993: DEEP SENSATION 8-12-0 D Murphy (11-1) J Gifford 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

KATABATIC beat Howe Street ¾l in 3-runner handicap chase on the New Course here (2m 110yd, good) with SPACE FAIR (19lb worse off) distance 3rd.
REMITTANCE MAN beat DEEP SENSATION 3½l in 4-runner Emblem Chase at Kempton (2m, soft) with WONDER MAN (7lb worse off) 15l 3rd and SPACE FAIR 30l 4th. SYBILLIN beat DEEP SENSATION (5lb worse off) 1½l in 7-runner grade II Tingle Creek Handicap Chase at Sandown (2m, good) in December with TRAVADO (5lb better off) 7½l 4th. TRAVADO beat DEEP SENSATION 7l in 4-runner grade II Peterborough Coloram Chase at Huntingdon (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) on November. VIKING FLAGSHIP beat WONDER MAN (7lb worse off) 2½l in 5-runner grade II Mitsubishi Game Spirit Chase at Newbury (2m 1f, soft) with SYBILLIN (3lb worse off) 3l 3rd and DEEP SENSATION 15l 4th. WONDER MAN took 2nd of 5 to Storm Alert in handicap chase at Sandown (2m, soft) last month.
Selection: REMITTANCE MAN

3.30 CORAL CUP HANDICAP HURDLE (£37,924: 2m 5f) (30 runners) — BBC1

301 2/30-303 SHANKORAK 25 (F,6l) (E D'Mahony) F Berry (Ire) 7-11-10 ..... D J Kavanagh (7) 63
302 21-3501 TIME FOR A RUN 10 (G,S) (J Mellkinoz) E O'Grady (Ire) 7-11-8 ..... C Swan 84
303 1120-30 OLYMPIAN 4 (B,CD,BF,F,G) (M & N Plant Ltd) M Pipe 7-11-7 ..... J Lower 87
304 5-80322 DOMINANT SERENADE 39 (C,G,S) M Hammond 5-11-6 ..... D Bridgwater (3) 88
305 131663 JEASSU 13 (V,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J Mills) A J Wilson 11-11-5 ..... D Gillard 84
306 413204 KADI 19 (D,G,S) (J Brown) D Nicholson 5-11-4 ..... A Maguire 84
307 1121-0 LEMON'S MILL 4 (F,G) (S Mercer) M Pipe 5-11-3 ..... M A Fitzgerald 83
308 246610 BO KNOWS BEST 11 (F,S) (N Goldman) Mrs J Ramsden 5-11-2 ..... W Marston 88
309 23-0115 DANCE OF WORDS 63 (C,F,G,S) (J Jobrson) J Johnson 5-11-2 ..... D J Moffatt (3) 95
310 4221F4 GLAISDALE 11 (V,D,S) (Ocasta Ltd) M Tompkins 5-11-1 ..... M Richards 60
311 200-111 GREY POWER 40 (D,F,S) (A Frame) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-13 ..... R Hodge 88
312 P00341 PEANUTS PET 14 (F,G,S) (The Ivy Syndicate) T Tate 8-10-11 ..... R Garritty 95
313 10-0531 VIARDOT 5 (S) (Exors of Mrs H Ward) Mrs M Reveley 5-10-11 ..... P Niven (5)
314 21FF-52 WICK POLDO 71F (B,C,G,S) (K Stoney) J Old 8-10-11 ..... T Grantham 65
315 0/00603- PACTOLUS 284 (C,F,G,S) (J Holmes) S Christian 11-10-9 ..... A Mulholland 90
316 3P-3010 STORMHEAD 43 (B,F,S) (M Obestein) O Sherwood 8-10-0 ..... J Osborne 87
317 146266 TEMPLERIAN PRINCE 11 (G) (E Donegan) V Bowens (Ire) 7-10-0 ..... C Bowens 87
318 F00121 SHANNON GLEN 10 (B,S) (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 8-10-5 ..... G McCourt 96
319 21-P022 CARIBOO GOLD 11 (B,BF,G,S) (Shaikh Marwan Al Maktoum) K Bailey 5-10-5 G Bradley 90
320 311213 STEEL MIRROR 11 (G,S) (Quantwell Syndicate) M Halford (Ire) 5-10-5 ..... J Shortt 84
321 108446 ZAMIRAH 12 (F,G,S) (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 5-10-4 ..... T Jenks (3) 85
322 810013 SUNSET AND VINE 28 (BF,G,S) (Sunset D Vine Pig) S Dow 7-10-4 ..... A Dicken 85
323 111422 KYTTON CASTLE 78 (G,S) (Joint Partnership) R Dickin 7-10-3 ..... D Meredith (3) 81
324 161111 PURITAN 95 (D,F,G,S) (J Parke) N Tinkler 5-10-3 ..... M Dwyer 84
325 242212 CHANCE CORREY 11 (S) (P O'Donnell) P O'Donnell (Ire) 8-10-1 ..... K O'Brien 86
326 0-00352 IVOR'S FLUTTER 11 (B) (W Perry) D Elsworth 5-10-0 ..... P Holley 86
327 511-402 LYNCH LAW 11 (V,F,S) (F Farrant) M Pipe 8-10-0 ..... J P Broderick (5) 87
328 /F0/2U1 SO PROUD 4 (F,S) (Hon Mrs R Cobbold) M Pipe 8-10-0 ..... M Perrett 93
329 42/442 MAESTRO PAUL 19 (BF,F,S) (H Pelham) J Gifford 8-10-0 ..... D Murphy 88
330 411122 COURT CIRCULAR 28 (V,F,G) (B S Ltd) M Clay 5-10-0 ..... Diane Clay 89

Long handicap: Ivor's Flutter 9-12, Lynch Law 9-9, So Proud 8-9, Maestro Paul 9-8, Court Circular 9-8.

BETTING: 8-1 Viardot, 12-1 Bo Knows Best, Grey Power, Time For A Run, 14-1 Dominant Serenade, Lemon's Mill, Olympian, So Proud, 16-1 Cariboo Gold, Ivor's Flutter, Jeassu, 20-1 others.

1993: OLYMPIAN 5-10-0 P Scudamore (4-1 jt-fav) M Pipe 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

TIME FOR A RUN beat Ferrycarig Hotel ½l in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m, soft to heavy) DOMINANT SERENADE ½l 2nd of 12 to Dark Honey in handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, heavy) with OLYMPIAN (winner of this race last year) 1l 3rd. BO KNOWS BEST beat High Altitude 4l in 16-runner handicap hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good to soft) on penultimate start. DANCE OF WORDS beat Saint Lover 3l in 7-runner hurdle here (2m 4f, good) on penultimate start. GREY POWER beat Dizzy 5l in 6-runner hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, soft). PEANUTS PET beat Clunican neck in 13-runner handicap hurdle at Wetherby (2m 4f 110yd, soft) with VIARDOT 2l 3rd. VIARDOT beat Leavenworth 2l in 14-runner handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 6f, good to soft). CARIBOO GOLD disqualified and placed 2nd after beating Adadale head in 11-runner handicap hurdle at Doncaster (3m 110yd, good). LYNCH LAW 1l 2nd of 7 to Miss Purbeck in handicap hurdle at Newbury (2m 5f, good). SO PROUD beat Man For All Season 1½l in 6-runner handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, soft).
Selection: VIARDOT

FESTIVAL COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
N Twiston-Davies	3	13	23.1	J Osborne	7	37	18.9
N Henderson	7	42	16.7	C Swan	5	31	16.1
G Balding	3	30	10.0	A Maguire	4	27	14.8
D Elsworth	3	36	8.3	J Frost	3	24	12.5
D Nicholson	4	50	8.0	G McCourt	3	39	7.7
M Pipe	7	101	6.9	Only qualifiers			

4.05 SUN ALLIANCE CHASE (Grade I: £49,018: 3m 1f) (18 runners) — BBC2

401 311111 ANOTHER EXCUSE 9 (G,S) (Gilshannig Racing) E O'Sullivan (Ire) 8-11-4 Mr W O'Sullivan 97
402 4-R2113 ARTHUR'S MINSTREL 40 (F,G,S) (B Halloway) P Cheesbrough 7-11-4 ..... C Grant 76
403 13112F BELVEDERIAN 31 (G,S) (A O'Reilly) M Morris (Ire) 7-11-4 ..... A Maguire 97
404 /56531 BRABAZON 14 (S) (P Betts (Holdings) Ltd) M Tompkins 8-11-4 ..... M Richards 75
405 211122 CRYSTAL SPIRIT 39 (C,F,G,S) (P Mellon) I Balding 7-11-4 ..... J Frost 95
406 82112P EARTH SUMMIT 35 (G,C,G,S) (R Sirse) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-4 ..... C Llewellyn 82
407 44P2F5 GHA GABUGABU 32 (BF,G,S) (Mrs S Scott) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-4 ..... D Bridgwater 84
408 0/61111 HONEST WORD 19 (G,S) (Mrs H Clarke) M Pipe 8-11-4 ..... C Swan 96
409 11U111 KILLULA CHIEF 32 (D,F,G,S) (T K Construction Ltd) J O'Shea 7-11-4 ..... M Dwyer 81
410 411212 MAILCOM 35 (F,S) (Mailcom Plc) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-4 ..... J Osborne 85
411 F42111 MONSIEUR LE CURE 10 (C,G,S) (H Brown) J Edwards 8-11-4 ..... P Niven 85
412 11411F MUDAHIM 35 (F,G,S) (K Bell) C Broad 8-11-4 ..... W Marston 87
413 2-11111 ONE MAN 35 (D,F,G,S) (J Hales) G Richards 8-11-4 ..... N Doughty 95
414 5-15845 PETTY BRIDGE 13 (F,G,S) (C & R Bowston) A James 18-11-4 ..... R Bellamy 56
415 53/3-212 ROUYAN 32 (F,G,S) (P Minet) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-4 ..... D Murphy 80
416 2/11111 SEE MORE INDIANS 20 (CD,F,G,S) (P Barber) P Nicholls 7-11-4 ..... G Bradley (88)
417 3U1R31 THE GLOW 32 (G,S) (Mrs T Brown) O Elsworth 8-11-4 ..... P Holley 89
418 18-1111 MARTOMICK 95 (D,F,G,S) (R Shaw) K Bailey 7-18-13 ..... D Gallagher 92

BETTING: 7-2 One Man, 9-2 Belvederian, 6-1 Honest Word, Monsieur Le Cure, See More Indians, 12-1 Crystal Spirit, Mailcom, 20-1 Killala Chief, Martomick, The Glow, 33-1 Another Excuse, Mudahim, 50-1 others.

1993: YOUNG HUSTLER 8-11-4 P Scudamore (9-4) N Twiston-Davies 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

BELVEDERIAN (l 2nd of 7 to Atone in grade II Bulleys Arkle Challenge Cup Novice Chase at Leopardstown (2m 4f 110yd, soft). ONE MAN beat MAILCOM 3l in 9-runner grade II Reynoldstown Novice Chase at Ascot (3m 110yd, soft) with MUDAHIM fell and EARTH SUMMIT pulled up. SEE MORE INDIANS beat Another Coral 2l in 4-runner conditions chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good to soft). MARTOMICK beat Fivebugh First a neck in 5-runner grade II Lowndes Lambert Novice Chase at Lingfield (3m, good to soft).
Selection: ONE MAN

4.40 124th YEAR OF THE NATIONAL HUNT CHASE CHALLENGE CUP (Amateurs: £15,530: 4m) (19 runners)

501 0/14P BURKLEY 42 (S) (R Rainbow) N Twiston-Davies 8-12-4 ..... M Flimsff 60
502 P-34812 CHRISTMAS GORSE 43 (BF,S) (D Stoddart) N Gaselee 8-12-4 ..... M Armytage 72
503 2-21P14 CREWS CASTLE 11 (G) (Mrs T McCoubrey) J Jenkins 7-12-4 ..... P Grafton –
504 U4212 FLORIDA SKY 11 (BF,S) (A Cohen) J Upson 7-12-4 ..... D Costello 92
505 4-4214F GOLDEN FARE 35 (F) (H Barrowclough) R Lee 9-12-4 ..... M Buckley 72
506 3F3631 LASTOFTHEVIKINGS 11 (S)

Manager stands down after tenure that serves as benchmark of excellence

Cooke leaves England well nourished

David Hands, rugby correspondent, reflects on the achievements of the man who helped raise the game's profile with an era of success

Rugby union does not always appreciate how fortunate it is, both in the deep affection it inspires and in the socio-economic group which follow it. The two combined ensure that it wins the support of men and women with intelligence, and with time and money to pour into the pursuit of a pig's bladder.

Those three qualities do not always illuminate the game, which gets by thanks to a kind of dogged devotion. When the Rugby Football Union (RFU) appointed Geoff Cooke as the England team manager six-and-a-half years ago, it did so with fingers crossed, knowing neither what team management would mean, as the honorary post had only just been created, nor what qualities Cooke would offer.

FIVE NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP

They were fortunate. Cooke brought to the role the eyes of a coach, the tongue of a teacher and the shrewd understanding and honesty of his native north. His contribution to English rugby has been immense. When he leaves, after England's game with Wales at Twickenham on Saturday, he will have created a model which others may not follow slavishly but which stands as a guide.

He aroused deep emotions, among players who at last found someone who understood their needs in a rapidly-changing world, among supporters who found in him a worthy image — articulate and forthright — for the game, and among a minority of administrators who suspected his motives and resented the cult of personality which grew up under his aegis. They saw only a man who had the gall to tell them that much in their garden was rotten.

Along the way Cooke made mistakes, which was not surprising when he had no script to guide him. Among them were: the early clash with another ambitious coach, Alan Davies, who might have helped England but instead reverted to Wales and whose side will close the Cooke era; the public silence in 1991 after England's first win in Wales for 28 years; and keeping faith with players after 1992 whose form did not merit it and which led to indifferent selection for the 1993 British Isles tour of New Zealand.

They are outweighed by the zeal and perception with which he worked to improve the standing of English rugby, not only in Europe but in the world. He brought to the role an honesty which was frequently abused by those who listened to him. By his own admission, however, he ultimately failed to achieve the vision with which he started of an England side playing to a consistently attractive and effective formula.

Much has been made of a contretemps with RFU committee members. "Did he go or was he pushed?" was the question asked most frequently when he announced his resignation earlier this month and even when he said his reasons were 99 per cent personal, many did not believe him. In reality, Cooke had found a hands-on role which suited him and if that remained his role now, he would not be going.

But management pure and simple was not for him. As a coach, he found immense enjoyment even in a time-consuming hobby which affected both his family and business life. "I love the involvement with the team," he said. "In the past two years I have stood back and it's not the same."

The team has been the dominant theme. "I need a break and I think it's in the best interests of the team ... what I enjoy isn't necessarily right for the team." Cooke has poured himself into team planning, sweeping away conventional attitudes to preparation, and it is little wonder that so many individual players — not all, but most, particularly those who have been in the England set-up longest — have responded to someone who understands their aspirations.

"The whole point has been to build the foundations which will take England through for many years of success. That's been my ambition. Whoever follows me will want to do things his way but I hope he'll feel there is a foundation worth building on."

Cooke's contribution in organisational terms was to help construct a representative system that allowed the development of talent, which had been poorly recognised before, initially via the divisional system, and more recently through the A team and emerging players programme. He also sought a team which would be recognised by the whole country, not just parts of it.

"To help achieve our objectives I want support — a collective effort involving all the clubs, counties and divisions, all feeling and sharing a responsibility for England," he said six years ago. "It's a team that represents everyone." Cooke never quite achieved that degree of support, though his teams did become widely identified because they were successful.

They achieved his ambition of victories over all the leading rugby-playing nations. "New Zealand last year was a high, games in Paris were always highs. There were moments when the team played in the style you always wanted from them, however fitfully, and that happened more often in 1990 than any other time.

"I suppose my greatest single regret would be losing the World Cup final to Australia, when we were castigated for changing our winning style to one where we threw the ball around. The other was that, in my time, we didn't achieve the vision I had of the way I felt England could play. I still think this squad we have now is nearer it than many believe, that these players can become better than those who took us to two grand slams."

On Friday, the RFU will determine Cooke's successor. There is every prospect it will decide on two, one to deal with the playing side and the other to manage relationships between administrators, players and the public. What the game must not do is waste Cooke's experience.

He goes on his own terms. "I'm my own man. When you're criticised you listen to it and either change your mind or retain a belief in what you're doing and go on and do it." He has no intention of turning his back on rugby; the game should ensure he has no cause to do so.

Cooke, whose last game in charge of England is against Wales on Saturday, was happiest when working closely with the players

Davies says Wales will stay true to attacking philosophy

BY DAVID HANDS

ALAN Davies will bring the Welsh side he coaches to Twickenham on Saturday for the 100th encounter with England, throwing down the style gauntlet in the first of a uniquely different series of challenges: from the hype of the five nations' championship climax to the World Cup-qualifying games in May against Spain and Portugal, thence to three internationals in the South Pacific in June.

"We are confident we can produce a proper game of rugby and win," Davies told a Sports Writers' Association lunch in London yesterday. "The most important thing is to play the game properly, whether round, through or over our opponents. If we do that and lose, it will be sad but we will be able to reflect still on what we have achieved."

Wales are on the verge of their first grand slam for 16 years with a coach who once helped prepare England, in 1988, and who now envisages England breaking their try drought by winning possession close to the try line and, using their forwards, driving the maul far enough to score.

"The problem for Wales on Saturday is not so much England — it's the Welsh coming, as someone said, out of their cave, up to London, with so much hanging on the result, the presence of the Queen, the 100th game," Davies said.

"It's a massive experience. If we don't play it will be because we become so passionate about wanting to win that we tuck the ball under an arm and start running into opponents who are bigger than we are."

England have added Tony Underwood to their replacements after the withdrawal with a groin strain of Stuart Barnes. Wales, meanwhile, have made five changes for their A international against France, in Cardiff on Friday.

WALES A: I Jones (Llanelli); O Manley (Pontypridd), N Boobyer (Llanelli), S Lewis (Pontypridd), G Wilkins (Bridgend); A Davies (Cardiff), P John (Pontypridd, captain); I Buckett (Swansea), B Williams (Neath), L Mustoe (Cardiff), H Taylor (Cardiff), P Arnold (Swansea), O Jones (Cardiff), L Jones (Llanelli), S Williams (Neath). Replacements: L Evans (Treorchy), R Howley (Bridgend), G Jones (Llanelli), G Prosser (Pontypridd), M Griffiths (Cardiff), J Humphreys (Cardiff).

Baits which need resisting when casting around for good tackle

Brian Clarke offers a beginner's guide to the range of equipment tempting newcomers to fly-fishing

If the calendar did not declare it, the fishing magazines would. They are as thick as the Sunday papers and very nearly as heavy. The tackle trade has begun its spring offensive. A new trout season is here.

Glossy pages shine, rods gleam, reels glint, lines coil and beckon. It all dazzles and seduces and, if four letters from readers on a single theme are anything to go by, it all terrifies and confuses, as well. The recurring question is how sense might be made of the claims and counter-claims, the letter and number codes, presented side-by-side for a hundred competing products?

More specifically, how can a sensible first outfit be put together from it all, by someone with no advice at hand, that will work yet not require a mortgage?

Because so much of the tackle trade's £100 million annual turnover occurs in the spring, and because this is when so many newcomers can burn their fingers, the question is worth answering here.

There are only two issues that anyone wishing to put together a fly-fishing outfit, really needs to understand. The first is the essential nature and role of the line. The second is the way that line and rod need to match one another.

In other forms of fishing, rods are designed to cast out baits or lures at the end of thin nylon. In fly-fishing, there is no weight on the end of the line: there is only a tiny fly made of feather and silk. Because it is only by using weight in some way that any line can be cast, the weight in the fly-line has to be incorporated throughout its length: and the line is driven out by rhythmic flexings of the rod.

Fly-lines come in varying thickness and therefore weights. Although on a shop counter a range of fly-lines may all look similar, they may all be designed to do different things. For example, they may be designed to sink or to float. They may be thick in the middle and tapered at each end, or "double-tapered": and so on. Each different taper — and there are a lot of them — gives the line different casting properties.

Lines of different weights are given different numbers to identify them. A 4-weight line is the lightest of any given type in common usage in trout fishing; a 9-weight line is the heaviest in common usage.

To ensure that rods and lines may be accurately matched, manufacturers give rods specific numbers as well. These numbers, agreed by the Association of Fishing Tackle Manufacturers (AFTM), denote the line weight that a given rod will best cast over a normal distance. All rods are marked with these AFTM numbers. A rod marked AFTM-4 will best be suited to a 4-weight line. A rod marked AFTM-9 will best be suited to a 9-weight line. The rods designed to throw the heavier lines are more powerful than those designed to throw lighter lines, and in general are better suited to casting long distances and controlling big fish.

The situation has become confused of late because manufacturers, in the bid to sell more, have taken to marking their rods with a range of numbers covering several of the most popular line weights: they mark them AFTM 4-6, or AFTM 6-8 or some such. *Caveat emptor*. While in the hands of an expert most rods can be made to cast a couple of lines reasonably well, any rod will cast only one line perfectly well. A lighter line will give casting problems at short range or in a wind, a heavier line will give problems over long distances.

With rods marked with a single AFTM figure, then that is the line weight to use. With rods bracketing three lines, the middle weight is most likely the best. Where a rod brackets two lines only, I have in general found the heavier line weight to be more satisfactory.

In the main, trout rods of 6ft to 8ft are used for small streams, rods 8ft to 9ft 6in are used on rivers and for shore fishing on lakes. Any trout rod over 9ft 6in is a long rod, generally has specialised uses while fishing from a boat, and can exert great leverage on the wrist when a heavy fish is being played. They should be avoided by beginners.

And so which to choose? for all-round use on most rivers and lakes, the newcomer should opt for a 9ft rod. Because of the distances it may be necessary to cast on larger rivers and lakes, he or she should opt for a 7-weight line. And because virtually all fishing on rivers and most on lakes will be done near the surface, a floating line should be the choice. Because delicacy is required when casting to fish close to the surface, and because the profile is for technical reasons best-suited to delicate casting, the line should be double-tapered.

And so there is the newcomer's first outfit: a 9ft AFTM-7 rod, matched by a DT7F (double-taped floating) line. The reel for carrying the line is a relatively unimportant item: it simply needs to be light and robust.

Rods can be bought for as little as £40 and as much as £500. I paid £120 for the one I use most. The best lines cost £35 to £40 and are an investment because they cast and float better and, properly maintained, will last longer. Sensible reels begin at £20.

Eureka! — a perfectly serviceable outfit for £100, an outstanding one for £200. And watch the trade eat its heart out when you buy.

Skill, and a well-matched rod and line, enabled this angler to drop the fly at the required spot

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BBC1

6.00 Business Breakfast (22061)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (84456516)

9.05 Kilroy. Topical discussion (s) (8805326) **9.45 Newshound**. Current affairs quiz (s) (2398018)

10.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (5217332) **10.05 Playdays** (r) (s) (8787790)

10.30 Good Morning ... with Anne and Nick (s) (91765974)

12.15 Pebble Mill. Ross King is joined by Josie Lawrence (s) (1014887) **12.55 Regional news** and weather (20585332)

1.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (33516)

1.30 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (67582158)

1.50 Cheltenham Festival. Live coverage of the 2.15, 2.50, 3.30 and, on BBC2, 4.05 races from the second day of the National Hunt Festival (s) (97913871)

3.45 SuperTed (r) (9969603) **3.55 Bitse** (s) (9965887) **4.05 Popeye and Son** (5751055) **4.20 The Really Wild Show**. Wildlife series. (Ceefax) (s) (9573968) **4.45 Monkey Island**. Part three (s) (7198536)

5.00 Newsround (9966852) **5.05 Earthfasts**. The penultimate episode of the mystery-drama. (Ceefax) (s) (4627055)

5.35 Neighbours (r). (Ceefax) (s) (465790)

6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Ceefax) and weather (871)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (351)

7.00 The Rock 'n' Roll Years – The Eighties. Music and memories from 1983. (Ceefax) (s) (5871)

7.30 Here and Now. Current affairs series. Sybil Ruscoe looks into the way NHS cash is spent; Sankha Guha reports on the phenomenon of repeat burglaries; and Mark Easton talks to angling saboteurs (535)

Sleuths Powell, Carrott and company (8.00pm)

8.00 The Detectives. Jasper Carrott and Robert Powell star as the inept policemen. This week a duchess (Rula Lenska) is caught in a compromising position with her police detective. (Ceefax) (s) (4719)

8.30 Luv. Carla Lane's comedy series starring Sue Johnston and Michael Angelis. Eden plots her revenge on Harold now that he has ended their affair. (Ceefax) (s) (1545)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Peter Sissons. (Ceefax) Regional News and weather (9622)

9.30 Sportsnight Special. Live coverage of Frank Bruno's non-title bout against American Jesse Ferguson from Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre. Harry Carpenter is at the ringside (76264)

10.30 Underworld: Robbery. (Ceefax) (s) (519624)

11.20 Cheltenham Festival. Highlights of today's races (827806)

11.40 FILM: Forbidden (1985) starring Jacqueline Bisset as a Christian countess living in Berlin during the Second World War who falls in love with a Jewish writer (Jurgen Prochnow). Directed by Anthony Page (142413) **1.30am Weather** (3223253)

2.15-3.45 BBC Select: Accountancy Television (536611) **3.15** Legal Network Television (87543) **4.00-4.45** TV Edits French 2 TV10 (8692543)

BBC2

6.20 Open University: Art in 15th Century Italy: Florence (7012806) **6.45** Lifestyles, Work and the Family (6504332) **7.35** The Present in the Past Greek Drama (7580177)

8.00 Breakfast News (Ceefax) (4816887)

8.15 Westminster Daily (1309351)

9.05 Daytime on Two. Educational programmes. Plus, for children, **1.20** The Adventures of Buzzy Bee and Friends (28070516) **1.25** Gordon T. Gopher (28079887) **1.30-1.40** King Rollo (34504185)

2.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by **Storytime** (s) (47953351) **2.15 The Sky at Night** with Patrick Moore (r) (s) (47949158)

2.35 CountryFile presented by John Craven (r) (s) (8989516)

3.00 News (Ceefax) and weather followed by **Westminster Live** with Iain Macwhirter. (Ceefax) (6673993) **3.45 News** (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9967245)

3.55 Cheltenham Festival. Live coverage of the 4.05 race (s) (7732581)

4.30 People of the Valley. Welsh language drama serial with English subtitles (s) (448) **Wales:** Macgregor's Scotland

5.00 All in the Mind. Teenagers pit their wits against adults (s) (6177)

5.30 Food and Drink (r) (s) (500)

6.00 Star Trek. Vintage science-fiction adventure series (r). (Ceefax) (514177)

6.50 Def II: Reportage. An investigation into the dating game, including a special blind date (s) (369974)

7.30 Animation Now (881535)

7.40 East: Race to the Polls. A few months after the BNP by-election victory in the East End of London, a look at how recent events have affected the build-up to the May by-elections. (Ceefax) (s) (828326) Followed by **Video Nation** (Ceefax)

8.10 Spoiling the Child? The Case Against Modern Parenting. (Ceefax) (740871)

Fran Lebowitz goes to Princeton (8.50pm)

8.50 Building Sights, USA. Writer Fran Lebowitz peruses Michael Graves's house in Princeton, NJ. (Ceefax) (s) (361516)

9.00 Screen Two: All Things Bright and Beautiful. (Ceefax) (s) (8993)

10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (362719)

11.15 Late Art (s) (870448) **11.55 Weather** (677158) **12.00 BAe**. Improving performance (2229765)

12.25am An Everyday Story of Industrial Folk (2299524). Ends at **12.55**

2.00-4.00 Night School: Teaching Today (54982)

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CHOICE

Gabriel Byrne and Ciaran Fitzgerald (BBC2, 9.00pm)

Screen Two: All Things Bright and Beautiful
BBC2, 9.00pm

Michael Jackson, the man who runs BBC2, has expressed the hope that his *Screen Two* strand will revive the excitement once engendered by *The Wednesday Play*. If so, he will have to order more dramas drawn from the mainstream of contemporary life. There is not much wrong with Barry Devlin's tale of a ten-year-old Irish boy who has a vision of the Virgin Mary except that it takes place 30 years ago and has little relevance outside a close Catholic community. That said, the tale is neatly worked through, showing, with more than a touch of irony, how people can be persuaded to believe what they hope to believe. Ciaran Fitzgerald is excellent as the young innocent who throws the village into turmoil.

Spoiling the Child?
BBC2, 8.10pm

In the latest contribution to the Year of the Family, the journalist Catherine Bennett mounts a lively polemic against modern parenting. She argues that it is wrong to let children think they have equal rights with adults. Such ideas are breeding a race of conceited monsters. Children, says Bennett, should be seen and not heard, until, that is, they have been civilised. Far from deserving to be romanticised, children are turbulent, insensitive and often cruel and have to win freedom and respect through years of hard work and education. Bennett blames the baby boomer generation of the 1960s for elevating babies into a status symbol and claims that baby products and baby books have gone on to feed the new ideology.

The Underworld
BBC1, 10.30pm

The film in which Phil Collins played a lovable, sanitised version of Buster Edwards somehow failed to mention that nine months before the Great Train Robbery Edwards coshed a guard in a wages snatch at Heathrow airport. Edwards recalls the episode in tonight's film, adding: "You go on business to expect violence and to use violence." Another robber, Don Barrett, tells how he would strap remote control bombs to security guards to dissuade them from raising the alarm. He also describes how he took a woman and her daughter hostage to force her husband to unlock a safe. Not for the first time, this series raises the tricky question of whether it is romanticising what it affects to condemn.

Working Parts: 21st-Century Nuns
Channel 4, 9.45pm

The late Derek Jarman makes a cheery appearance in Tom Stephen's student film about the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Founded in San Francisco in the 1970s, the Sisters are a group of gay men who dress up as nuns and give themselves jokey names. British members of the order include Sisters Brigid Over Troubled Waters and Belladonna in Gloire de Marengo. Their serious purpose is to campaign for gay and lesbian causes, although they were also active in opposing the poll tax, the Gulf War and pit closures. The order creates its own saints, among whom was Saint Derek of Dungeness, alias Jarman. The film has little shape or style but the material is quirky enough to carry it through.

Peter Waymark

ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV (8149448)

9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (3693429) **9.55 London Today** (Teletext) (8690210)

10.00 The Time ... The Place. John Stapleton invites members of a studio audience to air their views on a topical subject (s) (6435177)

10.35 This Morning. Weekday magazine (91686413) **12.20 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (7298326)

12.30 Lunchtime News (Teletext) and weather (9453264) **12.55 Coronation Street** (r). (Teletext) (a) (9365055) **1.25 Home and Away**. Australian family drama. (Teletext) (57922968)

1.55 The Crystal Rose Show. Talk show for Londoners (22195167) **2.25 A Country Practice**. Drama serial set in an Australian country town (a) (93947719) **2.50 The Young Doctors**. Australian hospital drama (5780719)

3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (8137351) **3.25 London Today** (Teletext) and weather (8136622)

3.30 Tots TV (r) (s) (4166535) **3.40 The Riddlers** (r) (9882500) **3.50 The Adventures of Grady Greenspace** (4160351) **4.05 Scooby Doo** (r) (5245018) **4.15 Terror Towers**. Steve Johnson presents this comedy-horror game show (s) (540264) **4.45 Tiny Toon Adventures** (2449968)

5.10 Home and Away (r). (Teletext) (4717622)

5.40 Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Teletext) Weather (631326)

6.00 London Tonight (Teletext) (s) (28535)

7.00 This Is Your Life. Michael Aspel lies in wait for another unsuspecting individual. (Teletext) (s) (7239)

7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (s) (603)

8.00 The Bill: One of Them. A seemingly unmotivated attack on a popular youth worker leaves Carver puzzled. (Teletext) (9887)

8.30 September Song. Gentle drama starring Russ Abbot and Michael Williams. (Teletext) (s) (1622)

Jack (Kevin Whately) meets Alberta (9.00pm)

9.00 Peak Practice: Love Thy Neighbour with Kevin Whately and Amanda Burton. Jack has a noisy porcine neighbour and Beth makes some radical decisions. (Teletext) (s) (8055)

10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald. (Teletext) and weather (98852) **10.30 London Tonight** (Teletext) and weather (756239)

10.40 FILM: Bachelor Party (1984) starring Tom Hanks. On the eve of his marriage to a wealthy woman, a school bus driver holds a stag party. Meanwhile, his fiancée's parents are trying to lure their daughter away from him. Directed by Neal Israel (61989871)

12.40am The Champions' League. Highlights (9912982)

1.40 Hollywood Report (s) (1134017)

2.10 The Crystal Rose Show (r) (s) (7567291)

2.40 The Album Show (s) (7541746)

3.35 Videofashion (98011307)

4.00 Reap the Whirlwind (r) (98524)

5.00 America's Top Ten (r) (s) (73833)

5.30 ITN Morning News (63307). Ends at **6.00**

CHANNEL 4

6.35 The Adventures of T-Rex. Cartoon (r) (3714697)

7.00 The Big Breakfast (50239)

9.00 Sabotage. Women-only game show (s) (88429)

9.30 Schools: Videomaths (4371581) **9.46** Talk, Write and Read (4467332) **10.02** Science - Start Here! (4633603) **10.18** Mind Your Own Business (4549210) **10.40** Technology Programme (7053974) **10.56** Film and Video Showcase (3422603) **11.07** Time for Maths (8503210) **11.18** Mathsbook (8690790) **11.30** Rat-a-Tat-Tat! (1900852) **11.45** Junior Technology (1001535)

12.00 House to House. Political news (91993)

12.30 Sesame Street. Robin Williams joins the puppets on today's early-learning show (48516)

1.30 The Magic Roundabout followed by **Mr Men, Quag Quao** and **Musti** (r) (17429)

2.00 FILM: The Dawn Patrol (1938, b/w). First World War drama starring David Niven and Errol Flynn. The leader of a British squadron becomes increasingly disillusioned as more and more of his men are killed. Directed by Edmund Goulding (968210) **3.50 Four Views of a Landscape** (3718516)

3.55 Memento. Terence Conran talks to Joan Bakewell (r). (Teletext) (7830177)

4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (516)

5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. America's favourite agony aunt is joined by mothers who want their violent children locked up. (Teletext) (s) (1745142)

5.50 Laurel and Hardy (445177)

6.00 Mork and Mindy. The American comedy series that launched Robin Williams to stardom (r) (581)

6.30 A Different World. Whitley applies for unemployment benefit (s) (531)

7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (990993)

7.50 Party Political Comment by a Liberal Democrat politician. (Teletext) (147603)

8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (7429)

8.30 A Taste of Africa: Mali. Dorinda Hafner travels up the River Niger and visits Timbuktu and Bamoko. (Teletext) (s) (9264)

9.00 Dispatches. Medical experts are being disbanded because NHS reforms mean fewer patients are being referred to specialist doctors. (Teletext) (549245)

Swing time with Sister Belladonna (9.45pm)

9.45 CHOICE Working Parts: 21st-Century Nuns. (Teletext) (s) (698448)

10.00 The Golden Girls (r). (Teletext) (486603)

10.35 Absolutely. Off-beat comedy series (r). (Teletext) (s) (636806) **11.10 Moviewatch** (r) (s) (291332)

11.40 Extreme Asia. Featuring the eastern Siberian rock band Mission Anti-Cyclone and Chinese artist Fang Li Jun (199245)

12.15am Flying Blind. Alicia is hired by a famous fashion designer (s) (94833)

12.45 LA Law. Courtroom drama (r) (s) (4137098)

1.40 The Alpha Link. The risks of low-dose nuclear radiation (r). (Teletext) (s) (3377949). Ends at **2.40**

4.00-5.15 Schools (5004524)

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and NW. **4.00am** Bruno Brookes (FM only) **7.00** Steve Wright **9.00** Simon Mayo **12.00** Lynn Parsons **2.00** Mark Goodier **4.00** Nicky Campbell **7.00** Evening Session **9.00** Windbeats (r) **9.30** D Energy with Normski **10.00** Mark Radcliffe in Manchester **12.00-4.00am** (through the Night (FM only)

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. **6.00am** Sarah Kennedy **6.15** Pause for Thought **7.30** Wake Up to Wogan **9.15** Pause for Thought **9.30** Ken Bruce **11.30** Jimmy Young **2.00pm** Gloria Hunniford **3.30** Ed Stewart **5.05** John Dunn **7.00** Jim Lloyd **8.00** Barn Dance: Hookes Law **8.30** Looking Forward, Looking Back **9.00** Isla St Clair and a Family Tradition **9.30** Nigel Ogden **10.30** The Jamesons **12.05am** Steve Madden **3.00-6.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5

6.00am World Service **6.30** Morning Edition **8.00** Schools: Look and Read; **9.15** Dance Workshop; **9.35** Verse Universe; **9.45** Time and Tune; **10.05** Drama Workshop **10.25** Johnnie Walker **12.30pm** Education Matters **1.10** The Crunch **2.00** The Cheltenham Festival: Live coverage of the second day of the National Hunt Festival, including at **2.50** the Queen Mother Champion Chase **4.20** Andy Smith's Drive-In **5.30** Grossham Grange (2/3) (r) **7.15** Kevin the Blue (r) **7.30** Trevor Brooking's Football Night: Arsenal v Torino in the European Cup Winners' Cup **10.10** Hit the North **12.00-12.10am** News; Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. **4.30am** BBC English **4.45** News and Press Review in German **5.00** Morgenmagazin: Tips für Touristen **5.30** Europa Today **6.00** News **6.10** British News **6.15** The World Today **6.30** Europe Today **7.00** Newsdesk **7.30** Development '94 **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The Dance Selection **8.30** Screenplay **9.00** News **9.05** Business Report **9.15** Country Style **9.30** What's News **9.45** Sports Roundup **10.00** News **10.01** Omnibus **10.30** Jazz for the Asking **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** BBC English **11.45** Mittagsmagazin: News in German Noon News **12.10pm** Words of Faith **12.15** New Ideas **12.35** Give Us Our Daily Bread **12.45** Sports Roundup **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.05** Outlook **2.30** Off the Shelf: *Rimsky By Himself* **2.45** Good Books **3.00** News **3.15** Animals of Power **3.30** Accidents Will Happen **4.00** News **4.10** British News **4.15** BBC English **4.30** Heute Aktuell **5.00** News **5.05** Business Report **5.15** BBC English **6.00** Newsdesk **6.30** Heute Aktuell **7.00** Nachrichten **7.05** Kaleidoskop: Nachrichten aus Grossbritannien, Wissenschaft und Forschung, Apropos, Tips für Touristen **8.00** News **8.10** Words of Faith **8.15** The World Today **8.30** Europe Today **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.10** British News **10.15** Sports International **10.45** Sports Roundup **11.00** News **11.05** Business Report **11.15** From Our Own Correspondent **11.30** Multitrack **2** Midnight Newsdesk **12.30am** Accidents Will Happen **1.00** News **1.05** Outlook **1.30** Waveguide **1.40** Book Choice **1.45** Farming World **2.00** Newsdesk **2.30** Sports International **3.00** News **3.10** British News **3.15** Sports Roundup **3.30** Assignment **4.00** World News **4.15** The Farming World

CLASSIC FM

6.30am Nick Bailey **9.00** Robert Booth **12.00** Susannah Simons **2.00pm** Lunchtime Concerto: Bach (Triple Concerto in A minor, BWV 1044) **3.00** Petroc Trelawny **5.00** Sarah Ward **7.00** Book Browse **8.00** Evening Concert: See Choice **10.00** Michael Mappin **1.00-6.00am** Mark Griffiths

VIRGIN 1215

6.00am Russ and Jono's Breakfast **10.00** Richard Skinner **1.00pm** Graham Dene **4.00** Wendy Lloyd **7.00** N.J. Williams **10.00** Nick Abbot **2.00-6.00am** Paul Coyte

ANGLIA

As London except: 9.35am-10.00 Anglia News and Weather (8690210) **12.20pm-12.30** Anglia News and Weather (7298326) **1.55** A Country Practice (67407413) **2.20-2.50** Gardening Time (93859500) **3.25-3.30** Anglia News and Weather (8136622) **5.10-5.40** Swot or Wot? (4717622) **6.00** Home and Away (718535) **6.25-7.00** Anglia Weather and Anglia News (124603) **10.30** Anglia News and Weather (756239) **10.40** Top Secret! (10753429) **12.20am** The Champions' League - Highlights (9912982) **1.20** The Hands Of Orlac (4923901) **2.50** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (9109340) **3.20** The Album Show (4247185) **4.10** Jobfinder (39602889) **4.30-5.30** Sport AM (26307)

CENTRAL

As London except: 1.55 Shortland Street (67407413) 2.20 Gardening Time (93859500) **2.50-3.20** A Country Practice (6780719) **3.25-3.30** Central News (8136622) **5.10-5.40** Swot or Wot? (4717622) **6.00** Home and Away (718535) **6.25-7.00** Central News and Weather (124603) **10.30** Central News and Weather (756239) **10.40** The Champions' League - Highlights (656055) **11.40** Bodies of Evidence (222887) **12.35am** Hollywood Report (6265678) **1.10** The Album Show (3924036) **2.05** Cue the Music (2869659) **3.05** 8PM (2400456) **4.00** Jobfinder (5006982) **5.20-5.30** Asian Eye (2021185)

VARIATIONS

HTV WEST

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (67407413) 2.20-2.50 Gardening Time (93859500) **5.10-5.40** Movies, Games and Videos (4717622) 5.55 Home and Away (461974) **6.25-7.00** HTV News (124603) **10.40** Good Guys Wear Black (10753429) **12.20am** The Champions' League - Highlights (9912982) **1.20** The Hands Of Orlac (4923901) **2.50** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (9109340) **3.20** The Album Show (4247185) **4.10** Jobfinder (39602889) **4.30-5.30** Sport AM (26307)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except: 6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (124603) **10.30-10.40** HTV News and Weather (756239)

MERIDIAN

As London except: 12.20pm-12.30 Meridian News and Weather (7298326) **1.55** A Country Practice (67407413) **2.20** Gateways (93859500) **2.50-3.20** Shortland Street (6780719) **3.25-3.30** Meridian News and Weather (8136622) **5.37-5.40** Three Minutes - Making It Happen (435790) **6.00** Meridian Tonight (239) **6.30-7.00** The Village (719) **10.30** Meridian News and Weather (756239) **10.40** Souvenir (27436429) **12.30am-1.40** The Champions' League (8807833)

TYNE TEES

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Tyne Tees News and Weather (8690210) **12.20pm** Tyne Tees News and Weather / Bleidiau: Network North (7370974) **12.25-12.30** Where the Jobs Are (7379245) **1.55** A Country Practice (67407413) **2.20-2.50** The De Medici Kitchen (93859500) **3.25-3.30** Tyne Tees News / Bleidiau: Network North (8138622) **5.55** Tyne Tees Today / Network North (157806) **6.30-7.00** Cross Wits (719) **10.30-10.40** Tyne Tees News and Weather (756239) **12.30am-1.40** The Champions' League - Highlights (8807833) **2.10-2.40** Videofashion (7567291) **3.40** Noisy Mothers (2210307) **4.35-5.30** Jobfinder (8070614)

WESTCOUNTRY

As London except: 9.55-10.00 Westcountry Latest (8690210) **12.20pm-12.30** Westcountry Latest (7298326) **1.55** Take the High Road (22195167) **2.25-2.55** Westcountry Focus (93858871) **3.25-3.30** Westcountry Latest (8136622) **6.00-7.00** Westcountry Live (28535) **10.30** Westcountry Latest (756239) **10.40** Good Guys Wear Black (10753429) **12.20am** The Champions' League - Highlights (9912982) **1.20** The Hands Of Orlac (4923901) **2.50** Cinema, Cinema, Cinema (9109340) **3.20** The Album Show (4247185) **4.10** Jobfinder (39602889) **4.30-5.30** Sport AM (26307)

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 1.55 A Country Practice (67407413) **2.20-2.50** The De Medici Kitchen (93859500) 5.55 Calendar / Network North (157806) **6.30-7.00** Cross Wits (719) **10.30-10.40** Calendar News and Weather (756239) **12.30am-1.40** The Champions' League - Highlights (8807833) **2.10-2.40** Videofashion (7567291) **3.40** Noisy Mothers (2210307) **4.35-5.30** Jobfinder (8070614)

S4C

Starts: 7.00 The Big Breakfast (50239) **9.00** Sabotage (88429) **9.30** Yagolion/schools (168177) **12.00pm** House To House (91993) **12.30** Sioi Maithrin - Sioi A Siac: Hwyald Yn Hedfan (9451806) **12.55** Sesame Street (3709061) **1.55** Happy Ever After (31975185) **3.30** The Great Outdoors (697) **4.00** Slot 23 (8568457) **4.05** Sioi A Siac: Hwyald Yn Hedfan (6594500) **4.15** Now A Ned (2304924) **4.25** Mae Gen I Achos: Achos Bwlio Am B ros (3637429) **4.40** Steddfod (7000326) **5.00** Phenom (1245) **9.30** Countdown (968) **6.00** Newyddion 6/ News (805535) **6.20** Cwlwm Serch (601326) **6.25** Heno (122245) **7.00** Pobol Y Cwm (8581) **7.30** Teulu'r Tir (245) **8.00** Glowyr (7429) **8.30** Newyddion/news (8264) **9.00** A5 6 (8697) **10.00** Brookside (92622) **10.30** Caravaggio (61071806) **12.25am** Dispatches (9326949) **1.10** Diwedd/close (84755765) **4.00** Schools (82949)

RADIO 3

6.30 Open University: "The Dreaming of the Bones" by W.B. Yeats **6.55** Weather
7.00 On Air: Corelli (Violin Sonata in G, Op 5 No 6); Strauss (Hymnus, Op 33 No 3); Finzi (The Fall of the Leaf); Kevin Volans (Kneeling Dance); **8.20** Debussy (Danse sacrée et danse profane); Rachmaninov (The Rock, Op 7)
9.00 Composers of the Week: Matthews and Saxton. Saxton (At the Round Earth's Imagined Corners: St Paul's Cathedral Choir under John Scott); Matthews (Piano Sonata: William Howard); Saxton (I Will Awake the Dawn: BBC Singers under John Poole); Matthews (String Quartet No 6: Brindisi Quartet)
10.00 Midweek Choice: Beethoven (Marches (WoO 18-20): Chopin (Polonaise in A flat, Op 53); Ditters dorf (Symphony in D, The Petrification of Phineus and His Friends); Leoncavallo (Recitari Vesti la giubba, I Pagliacci); Brahms (Cello Sonata in F, Op 99); Poulenc (Sonata for two clarinets); Bach (Cantata No 202, Weichet nur, betrübte Schatten); Lyadov (The Enchanted Lake, Op 62); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 1 in F, K37)
12.00 Haydn and Françaix: Haydn (Overture in D); Françaix (Clarinet Concerto: Michael Collins); Haydn (Symphony No 82 in C, The Bear) (r)
1.00pm News 1.05 Concert Hall: Andrew Wilde, piano, performs Haydn (Variations in F minor, H XVII 6); Chopin (Piano Sonata in B minor, Op 58)
2.00 Record Review (r)
3.30 French Lute Suites: The repertory of 17th-century lutinistes (2/4)
4.00 Choral Evensong
5.00 The Music Machine: Clarinettist Emma Johnson fields questions from children
5.15 In Tune: Ravel (Alborada del Gracioso); Amiega (String Quartet No 1 in D minor — first movement); Falla (El Amor Brujo); Silvestre Revueltas (Sensemeya)
7.30 Towards the Millennium: The City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle performs Britten (Sinfonia da Requiem); Messiaen (Poèmes pour Mi: Faye Robinson, soprano). **8.20 Listen to Me**: Gertrude Stein's avant-garde play of 1936 **8.40** Berg (Suite, Lulu); Gershwin, arr Tilson Thomas (In Memoriam Lily Pons; Walking the Dog; A Cuban Overture)
9.40 Architectural Icons: Art deco churches designed by Bernard Miller in the 1930s
10.00 Martin Roscoe, piano, plays Schoenberg (Six Little Pieces, Op 19); Debussy (Images, Book 2); Szymanowski (Masques, Op 34) (r)
10.45 Night Waves: A Somalian and Ethiopian arts festival
11.30 Ensemble: The Medici Quartet. Grieg (String Quartet in F); Sibelius (String Quartet in D, Op 56, Voces Intimae)
12.30-12.35am News 1.00-2.25 Night School (except in Scotland: as Radio 5 at 9am)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing, incl **6.03** Weather **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55, 7.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **8.40** Yesterday in Parliament **8.58** Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Midweek
10.00-10.30 A Word in Edgeways (FM only): The first of four repeats from Brian Redhead's long-running discussion series
10.00 News; Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 The Bible (LW only): The First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians
10.30 Woman's Hour: Jenni Murray and Lyndall Gordon discuss Charlotte Brontë. Serial: *Like Water for Hot Chocolate*. Incl **11.00 News**
11.30 Gardeners' Question Time (r)
12.00 News; You and Yours
12.25pm Death Comes Staccato: The final part of Jill Brooke's dramatisation of the detective mystery by Gillian Slovo. Kate Basir has discovered that her attacker was sent from Mateley's factory. With Samantha Bond and Teresa Gallagher **12.55** Weather
1.00 The World at One
1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping
2.00 News; Running Before the Wind: See Choice
2.45 Footnotes: Martin Wainwright on the life of Jamaican nurse Mary Seacole
3.00 Anderson Country: Phone 071-765 5540
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Quentin Cooper reviews the film *The House of Spirits*; and Judy Meweezen talks to Peter Brook about his staging of *The Man Who* in Manchester
4.45 Short Story: Zapatos, by T. Coraghessan Boyle. Read by John Guerrasio
5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather
6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Counterpoint: Music quiz (r)
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 The Art of Travel: Pico Iyer talks to Annette Kobak about his encounter with Iceland
7.45 Medicine Now (r)
8.15 Days of Good Hope: The New Apartheid. Donald Woods discovers that old racial divisions in South Africa have been supplanted by discrimination against rural blacks (3/4)
8.45 In Business: Footprint Across Asia. Nick Higham reports on the battle among media conglomerates for the television markets of China and India
9.15 Kaleidoscope (r)
9.45 The Financial World Tonight **9.59** Weather
10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Jogging Round Majorca, by Gordon West. Abridged and read by Leonard Pearcey (3/8) (r)
11.00 Hindsight: Tales from the early cinemas (r)
11.30 Today in Parliament
12.00-12.43am News incl **12.27** Weather **12.33** Shipping **12.43** As World Service (LW only)

CHOICE

Running Before the Wind. *Radio 4, 2.00pm.*

As terraqueous family sagas go — and they go back a long way on radio — Catherine Czerkawska's four-parter does not disgrace the genre. To ensure that there will be a painless transition from one generation to the next, the story of this Firth of Clyde firm of yacht designers and builders is told in flashback. Mercifully, the device of giving a voice to three sailing ships in the manner of a Greek chorus is limited to the opening and closing minutes of this, the first play in the cycle.

Evening Concert. *Classic FM, 8.00pm.*

Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* which shares with Brahms's *German Requiem* tonight's Roger Norrington-conducted double bill, had an unhappy Vienna premiere in 1808. The half-frozen audience at the all-Beethoven concert had already sat through two symphonies they scarcely knew, a piano concerto, a scena and aria, and excerpts from the *Mass in C*. So under-rehearsed was the *Choral Fantasy* that Beethoven halted it half way through, and took his weary players back to bar one.

Peter Davalle

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

6.00am DJ Kat (83688158) **9.10** Cartoons (8739871) **9.30** Card Sharks (69862) **9.55** Concentration (46516) **10.25** Dynamo Duck (4182974) **10.30** Love at First Sight (35351) **11.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (91500) **12.00** Urban Peasant (26603) **12.30pm** E Street (70968) **1.00** Barnaby Jones (64351) **2.00** Chiefs (47245) **3.00** Another World (6694603) **3.50** DJ Kat (3981158) **9.00** Star Trek (8500) **0.00** Games World (4413) **0.30** E Street (1993) **7.00** M*A*S*H (9429) **7.30** Full House (7177) **8.00** X-Files (60910) **8.00** Code 3 (82239) **0.30** Seinfeld (56332) **10.00** Star Trek (as 5pm) (99061) **11.00** Untouchables (65983) **12.00** Streets of San Francisco (13475) **1.00am** Night Court (96614) **1.30-2.00** In Living Color (46307)

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (64061) **9.30** Nightline (76332) **10.30** Fashion (33993) **11.30** Japan Business (26897) **12.30pm** News and Business (66055) **1.30** CBS News (67784) **2.30** Parliament Live (47087) **3.30** Parliament Live (92968) **4.30** News and Business (7790) **0.00** Live at Five (343806) **7.30** Fashion TV (5719) **8.30** Talkback (54974) **11.30** CBS News (46622) **12.30am** ABC News (67388) **1.30** Fashion (67949) **2.30** Those Were the Days (82036) **3.30** Talkback (54253) **4.30** Beyond 2000 (31253) **5.30-6.00** CBS News (96659)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am Showcase (1235351)
10.00 WarGames (1983): A computer whizkid triggers a nuclear war (74784)
12.00 Journey to Spirit Island (1991): The adventures of a native American girl (51448)
2.00pm Lancelot and Guinevere (1963): Romance and adventure in Camelot (17413)
4.00 Oh God! Book 5 (1980): George Burns chooses a girl to spread his word (6332)
6.00 WarGames (as 10am) (81167)
0.00 Other People's Money (1991): Corporate raiding satire with Danny DeVito and Penelope Ann Miller (11662)
10.00 Marked for Death (1990): Steven Seagal fights drug dealers (182871)
11.35 Vision (1968): Cult horror film (244784)
12.50am Lip Service (1988): Two television presenters fight for the top slot (7765982)
1.55 Terror on Track Nine (1992): Richard Crenna stalks a serial killer (8247088)
3.25 Nijinsky (1980): Biopic of the ballet dancer (82755562). Ends at **5.30**

SKY MOVIES GOLD

6.00pm Dead Reckoning (1947, b/w): War veteran Humphrey Bogart investigates the disappearance of his army buddy (79245)
8.00 A Bridge Too Far (1977): Richard Attenborough's war epic. (33499326). Ends at **10.50**

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Red Garters (1954). Musical western spoof (29149)
8.00 The Gnomes Great Adventure Animated fun (63239)
10.00 Fort Dobbs (1958): Clint Walker rescues Virginia Mayo from Indians (72326)
12.00 Adam Had Four Sons (1941, b/w): Ingrid Bergman comforts a widower (42790)
2.00pm Walk the Proud Land (1956): An Indian agent fights for peace (15056)
4.00 The Gnomes Great Adventure (as 8am) (4974)
0.00 Lifeline to Victory (1993): A Canadian sea captain proves himself (61149)
8.00 Critters 3 (1992): The spiny demons go on the rampage in a block of flats (11644)
10.00 The Tower (1992): Paul Reiser is trapped inside a futuristic skyscraper (45185)
11.30 Back to the Streets of San Francisco (1992): Karl Malden tracks down his former partner's killer (391852)
1.05am The Further Adventures of Tennessee Buck (1988): Big game hunter Brian Keith goes on safari in Borneo with an American couple (7787104)
2.35 Prey of the Chameleon (1991): A hitch-hiker terrorises James Wilder (645307)
4.10-5.45 Lifeline to Victory (as 6pm) (502524)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am Prime Bodies (12061) **7.30** Soccer News (7907500) **7.45** WWF (7131887) **0.30** Basketball (42784) **9.00** Prime Bodies (99264) **9.30** ATP Tennis (76897) **11.30** Get Your Handicap Down (21142) **12.00** German League Football (75500) **1.00pm** The Football Show (64448) **2.00** Asian Open Snooker (761968) **5.00** Sportsworld (6351) **5.30** Soccer Magazine (1158) **8.00** Soccer News (414852) **6.15** Wrestlemania (117968) **7.00** American Sports (41448) **0.00** Asian Open Snooker (58784) **10.00** Soccer News (494445) **10.15** French Football (953535) **11.15** ATP Tennis (445559) **1.15-3.15am** Nascar: Motorcraft 500 (185456)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Step Aerobics (26264) **9.00** Aerobics (50429) **0.00

CRICKET 43
HICK QUICK TO LEARN AGAINST FAST BOWLERS

SPORT

TENNIS 45
WOMEN'S SEEDS FALL TO OUTSIDERS IN FLORIDA

Toshack ponders future with Wales

By Keith Pike

THE Football Association of Wales (FAW) was thrown into turmoil yesterday when it emerged that John Toshack was considering his future as part-time coach after one game in charge. If, as seems likely, Toshack severs his connections with Wales, his reign from Spain will have been one of the briefest, and unhappiest, in international football.

Toshack, who is also general manager of Real Sociedad, is known to have been hurt by the reaction of supporters to the 3-1 defeat of Wales by Norway at Ninian Park in Cardiff last Wednesday. Speculation about his future was fuelled yesterday when he was reported on Spanish radio to have said that he had offered to stand down as Wales coach. Toshack has called a press conference in San Sebastian this morning at which the end of his 48-day association with the FAW may be announced.

The FAW did nothing to shed light on the mystery. Alun Evans, the chief executive, refused to take calls at its headquarters in Cardiff. When approached by a reporter as he left the building, Evans said: "I have not spoken to John Toshack today. I will be speaking to him tomorrow, and I will not be raising the question of resignation unless he does."

Toshack: disquiet

John Evans, chairman of the FAW international committee, said he was "completely in the dark."

"I have heard nothing about it," he said, "but I was certainly under the impression after the match against Norway that John was keen to carry on." He was hoping to clarify the situation with Alun Evans late last night.

Mike Smith, Toshack's assistant and the favourite to succeed him if he goes, said: "This has come out of the blue. The last time I spoke to him we talked about the game and the players. This was certainly not discussed then. We were planning for the next game and which players we might look at in that game."

Speculation persists that, after returning to San Sebastian six days ago, Toshack contacted Alun Evans and expressed his disquiet at the reaction of supporters in his home town last week, when Wales were patently ill at ease with his system. Wales could have been heavily beaten, and during the match some fans chanted, "There's only one Terry Yorath" and "We want Terry back".

After his appointment, made in the wake of strong criticism of the FAW for its decision not to renew Yorath's contract, Toshack had said: "If at any time the FAW or the Welsh public feel it won't work out, they can say so. I don't want Real Sociedad to suffer. I don't want Wales to suffer and I don't want John Toshack to suffer. I don't oeed it."

Efan Ekoku, the Norwich City striker, seems certain to miss their FA Carling Premiership match against Everton on Monday, when Mike Walker returns to Carrow Road for the first time since leaving the club to take over at Goodison Park.

Ekoku, whose two goals against Queen's Park Rangers on Saturday took his total for the season to 14, is the victim of a club-versus-country dispute involving Nigeria, who want him to play in the African Nations Cup tournament that starts on March 25. Ekoku, who is also wanted for Nigeria's World Cup warm-up matches, will miss at least five of Norwich's last 10 league games.

Norwich had originally agreed with the Nigerian FA that Ekoku would join the squad at its base in Portugal after the match against Everton, but Robert Chase, the Norwich chairman, said yesterday that the Nigerians were now insisting that Ekoku flies out immediately.

John Deehan, the Norwich manager, yesterday tried to ease his problems by making an offer to Colchester United for Mark Kinsella, 20, the Ireland under-21 international midfield player. Deehan is believed to have offered £200,000 plus one player for Kinsella, but Roy McDonough, the Colchester manager, described the offer as "a joke".

Richard Money, the former Scunthorpe United manager, insisted yesterday that he had not resigned from the second division club. "The club's statement says that I had lost confidence in my ability. That is not true," Money said. "Last week during my discussions with the board I honestly examined my reponsibility as team manager for the team's performances."

Lee Clark, the Newcastle United midfield player who has broken a bone in his left foot, and Richard Edghill, the Manchester City full back who has a broken toe, are unlikely to play for six weeks.

☐ Alan Knight, the long-serving Portsmouth goalkeeper, has been awarded a testimonial match against Southampton at Fratton Park on May 10.

Call for McGinlay, page 42

Mark Dwyer urges the talented mare, Flakey Dove, up the Cheltenham hill on the way to a famous victory in the Champion Hurdle yesterday

Flakey Dove flies high in Champion Hurdle

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

FLAKEY Dove won the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham yesterday to complete a 40-year fairy tale for a Herefordshire farming family. The 9-1 chance, trained by Richard Price near Leominster for his father, Tom, is the great granddaughter of a horse bought by Price's grandfather for £25 at Ludlow market in the early 1950s.

Ridden yesterday by Mark Dwyer, a late replacement for the suspended Norman Williamson, Flakey Dove did not lead until the final flight of hurdles and then held off the challenge of Oh So Risky, the 9-4 favourite, by 1½ lengths. Large Action was a further three-quarters of a length back in third.

Richard Price, who was lambing ewes on his 400-acre farm at Stoke Prior a few hours before the race, said: "This is what you dream about and the dream has come true. We bred her and she has been on the farm ever since she was born. We are so proud of her."

When the trainer's grandfather bought Cottage Lass at the nearby market all those years ago he could not have had any idea of the racing dynasty he was about to establish. The mare, who was a broken-down point-to-pointer, had been heading for the knacker's yard.

Cottage Lass produced Red Dove, who won 16 times for the Prices from 93 starts, before giving birth to six filly foals, Grey Dove, Another Dove, Saucy Dove, Shadey Dove, Nimble Dove and Jubilee Dove, all of whom won races and notched up more than 50 victories. Shadey Dove, herself a winner of 12 races, was trained by Richard Price's uncle, Gordon, before breeding. She has produced a host of successful horses — which now include a Champion Hurdle winner.

3.30 (£99,933: 2m 110yd hdle)
FLAKEY DOVE b m Oats - Shadey Dove (J Price) 8-11-9 M Dwyer (9-1) 1.
Oh So Risky b g Kris - Expediency (The Oh So Risky Syndicate) 7-12-0 P Holley (9-4 fav) 2.
Large Action b g The Person - Ballyadam Lass (B Stewart-Brown) 6-12-0 J Osborne (8-1) 3.
ALSO RAN: 13-2 Halkopous, Muse (6th), 10 Granville Again, 16 King Credo (pu), Morley Street (pu), Shawiya, 25 Land Afar (f), 33 Absalom's Lady (5th), Valfinet, 40 Mole Board (4th), 66 High Baron, 250 Merchant House (f). 15 ran. NR: Fortune And Fame. 1½l, ¾l, 3½l, 5l, nk. R Price at Leominster. Tote: £7.30; £1.90, £1.90, £2.80. DF: £12.70. Trio: £24.80. CSF: £28.97.

"I know £25 doesn't sound much, but in the early 1950s it was a lot of money. I would think we have had more than 100 winners directly related to Cottage Lass," Price said.

Price hardly saw anything of the last 100 yards of yesterday's race as Flakey Dove battled up Cheltenham's famous hill, but there was a tear running down his ruddy cheek as he walked proudly into the winner's enclosure and heard the welcoming roar for his winner. "She must be one of the most popular mares in training. The cheer for her was quite amazing."

The trainer admitted he is tempted to try and win the Sagaro Stakes at Ascot for staying Flat horses, which would enhance her already considerably value, before retiring her to stud to continue the Dove line. When told that Flakey Dove was offfered at 20-1 to defend successfully her hurdling crown next year, he replied: "She might be in foal by then."

While the Price family prepared to return in triumph to Herefordshire and enjoy a night out at the Lamb public house in their home village, the victory provided Mark Dwyer with a rare chance of riding a Champion Hurdle-Gold Cup double. The 30-year-old will partner Jodami, the even-oney favourite for tomorrow's top steeplechase.

The defeat of Oh So Risky continued the Champion Hurdle jinx which continues to plague his trainer, David Elsworth. Elsworth has now had three runners-up, as well as horses placed third, fourth and fifth. "It is history now," he said philosophically. "Oh So Risky ran a very good race. There was no excuse, the mare won on merit."

After a quarter of an inch of rain had fallen at Cheltenham yesterday morning, the bumper crowd was treated to a chilly but dry spring afternoon — and some surprise results. The victory of Arctic Kinsman at 50-1 in the opening race was greeted in almost total silence, but two winning favourites by the end of the day helped punters in their struggle with bookmakers.

Cheltenham details, pages 44 and 45
Betting law reform, page 10

Livingston refuses random drug test

By David Powell and John Goodbody

JASON Livingston, the British sprinter sent home from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics after failing a drugs test, has refused a test while under suspension. Under British and international doping regulations, he could face a life ban.

Livingston, the European indoor 60 metres champion until succeeded by Colin Jackson last Friday, was approached by the Sports Council for a random test recently.

An athlete under suspension wishing to return to competition is required to be available for random testing, and to give three clean tests. According to British Athletic Federation (BAF) and International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) rules, refusal of a test carries the same penalty as a failed steroid test. A first offence is punishable by a four-year ban and a second by a life ban.

Livingston might not be subject to a life ban, however, if he notified the sport's authorities that he had retired or, even if he had not, had decided to retire and did not change his mind. He would then only become subject to testing were he to come out of retirement. Provided he had notified the BAF of his retirement, he would then need to make himself available for testing for 12 months before being allowed back.

It is understood that, although Livingston refused the test initially, he contacted the Sports Council for Wales later in the day through his solicitor, saying he had changed his mind. The Sports Council for Wales notified the Sports Council in England, but, as of Monday, no test had been taken.

Livingston, 22, declined to comment specifically, but said: "You people will not leave me alone. What are you going to write about? Obviously it's going to be Livingston refuses drugs test, surely he should be banned for life now."

David Bedford, the BAF secretary, said yesterday: "BAF have not yet been formally notified by the Sports Council of any problems surrounding that test. Were they to do so on this case, or any other one, I would remind you of our published rules and procedures which say that we will make no comment and neither confirm nor deny anything concerning a doping offence."

It would be up to the BAF to judge whether Livingston's actions constituted an offence. Livingston was banned for four years after failing a random test in July 1992. He tested positive to methandienone, an anabolic steroid.

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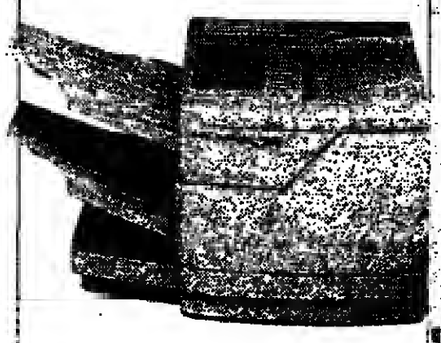

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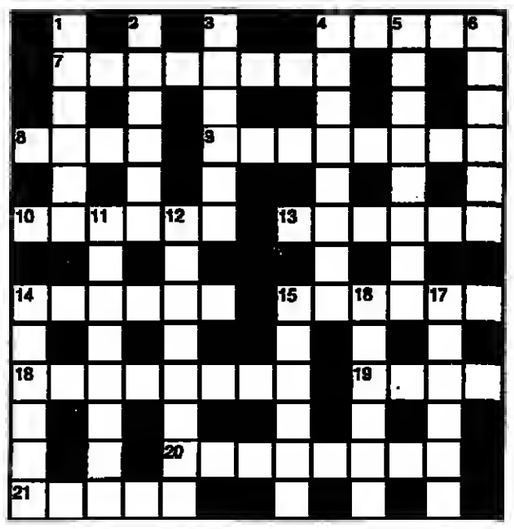

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 114

ACROSS

4 Extensive prospect (5)
7 Curse, loathe (8)
8 Plaster sealant (4)
9 Grape plantation (8)
10 Improved (6)
13 Large bottle in frame (6)
14 *White Christmas* singer (6)
15 Heartily dislike (6)
18 Organ stop; an octave (8)
19 Be idle (4)
20 (Passed) without a vote (2,3,3)
21 Roman poet; of St. Luke (5)

DOWN

1 City of canals (6)
2 Refuse to accept (6)
3 Golf-club; road-user (6)
4 Lead an unstimulating life (8)
5 Petty argument (8)
6 With greed (6)
11 Of the rib-cage area (8)
12 Portray on heraldic shield (8)
14 Offensive weapon; rack (brains) (6)
15 Small (inflatable) boat (6)
16 Aptitude, skill (6)
17 Beer/lemonade drink (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 113

ACROSS: 1 Summer 4 Dais 9 Rough 10 Tempera 11 Malacca 12 Drake 13 Enlightened 17 Aisle 19 Compère 22 Tear gas 23 Mouse 24 Buds 25 Lovely

DOWN: 1 Scrum 2 Maudlin 3 Ethic 5 Arena 6 Slaver 7 Attaché case 8 Smudge 14 Ice age 15 Execute 16 Cantab 18 Staid 20 Mambo 21 Emery

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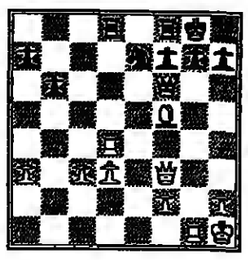
Chess

By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Cembaev - Schmidt, USSR 1973. Can you work out how White crashed through on the kingside?



Solution, page 42

Raymond Keene, page 9

Word Watch

By Philip Howard

LCI
a. Lowest common indicator
b. London Classical Institute
c. An almost amphibious craft

TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE
a. The start of All Saints' Day
b. A successful rebel
c. An ecclesiastical prelude

VAVASOUR
a. A cooking apple
b. A tenant farmer
c. A velvet under-bodice

LEPID
a. A butterfly
b. Clever
c. Charming

Answers on page 42